うさぎドロップ 3

宇仁田ゆみ

Don't you think this world is better than you expected?

usagi drop

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Don't you think this world is better than you expected?

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宇仁田ゆみ Unita Yumi

CHARACTERS

YOSHII MASAKO
RIN'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER
MANGAKA

K[illegible]UKI & K[illegible]UKI'S MAMA
RIN'S [illegible]IEND FROM NUR[illegible] AND HIS MOTHER.

[illegible]WA[illegible]HI PAIKICHI
[illegible] YEAR[illegible]OLD, SINGL[illegible]
[illegible]RRIBLE WITH WOMEN
[illegible]D CHIL[illegible]EN.

[illegible]AGA RIN
A RESOL[illegible]TE [illegible] YEAR OLD GIRL.
[illegible]TUALL[illegible] PAIKICHI'S AUNT.

STORY

PAIKICHI, WHO TOOK IN HIS GRANDFATHER'S ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER RIN,
SUCCEEDED IN TRACKING DOWN RIN'S MISSING MOTHER, MASAKO.
AFTER MEETING AND GETTING AN IDEA OF HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT RIN,
PAIKICHI RESOLVES TO RAISE RIN HIMSELF.

[illegible]s[illegible]i dro[illegible]

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episode.13
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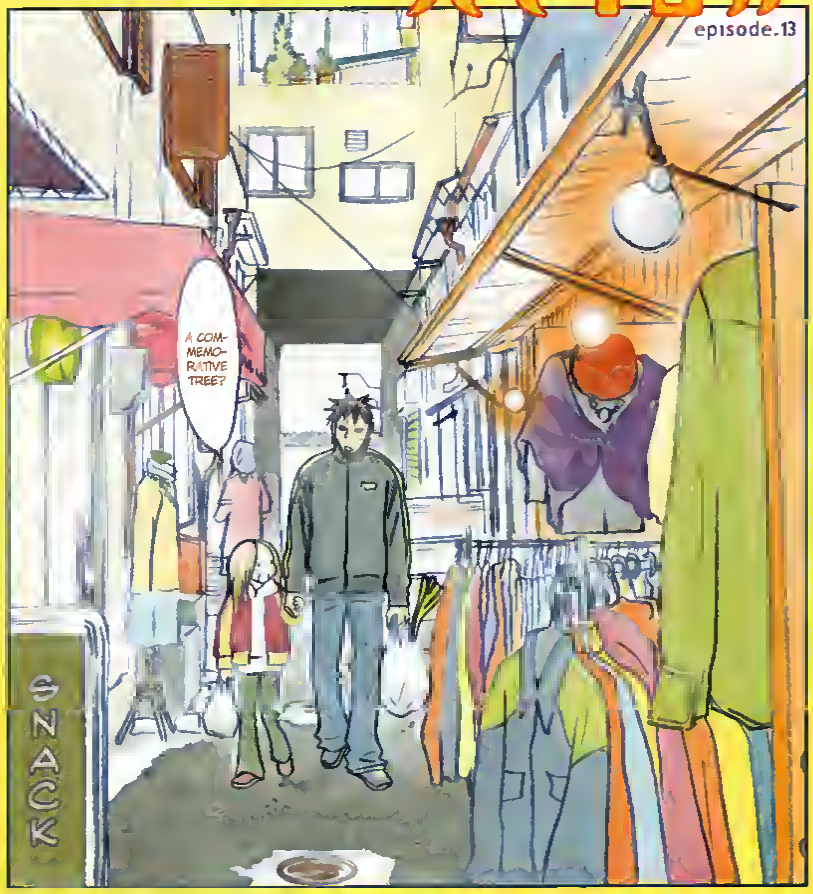
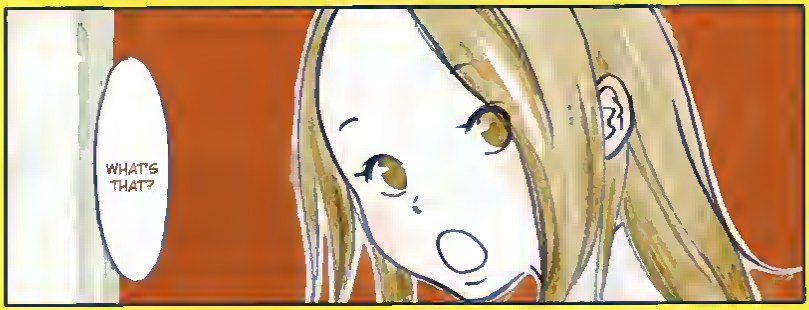
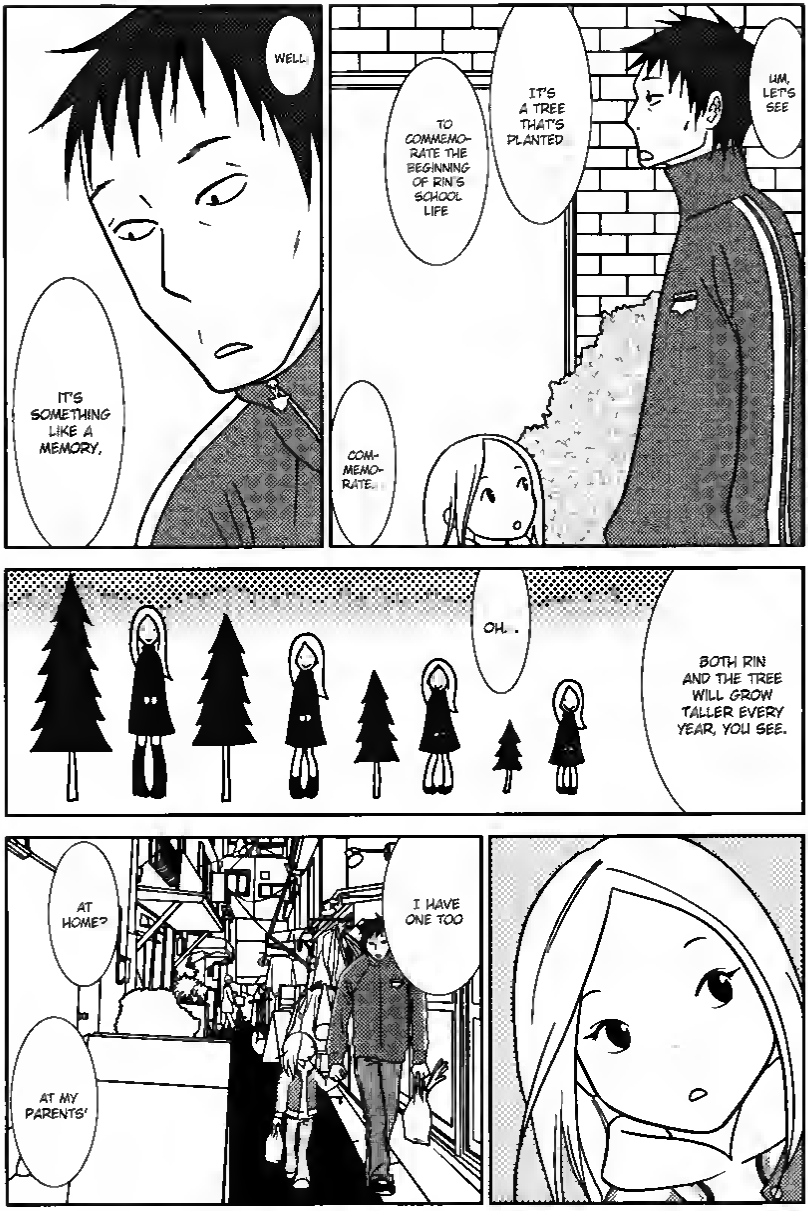
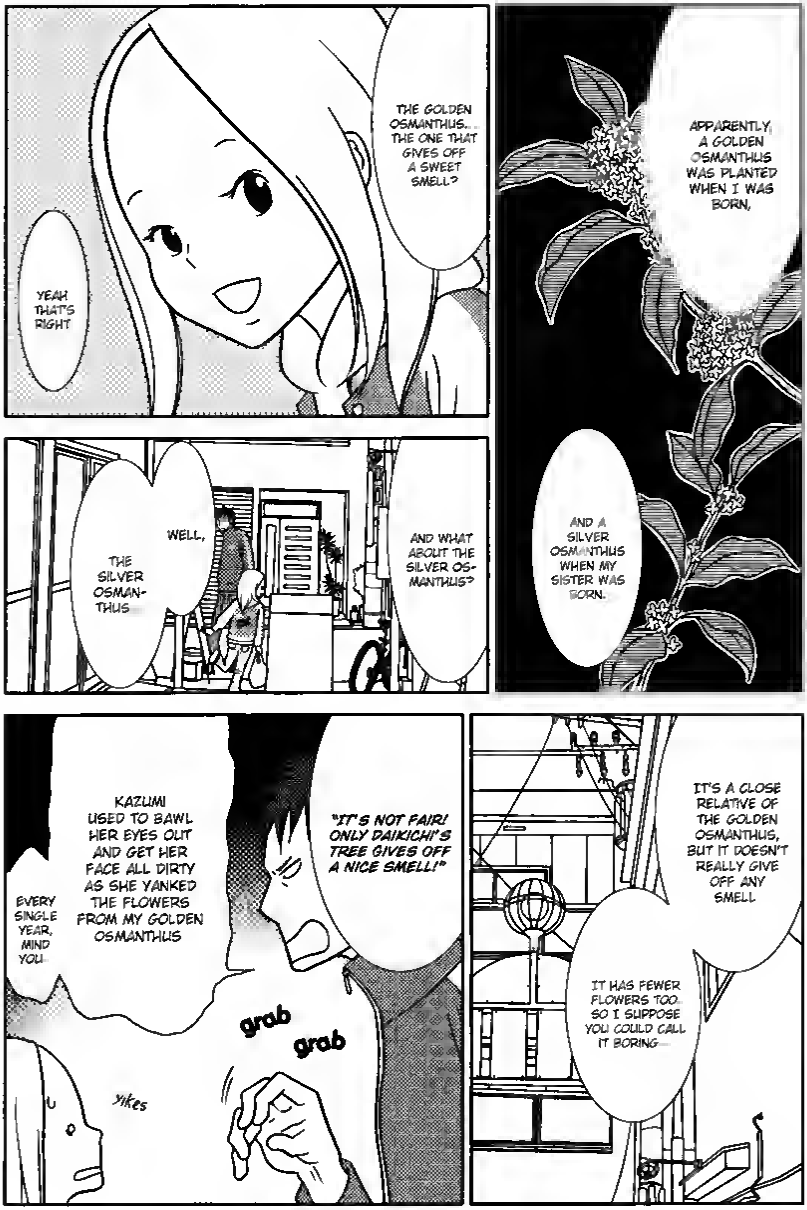
episode.13



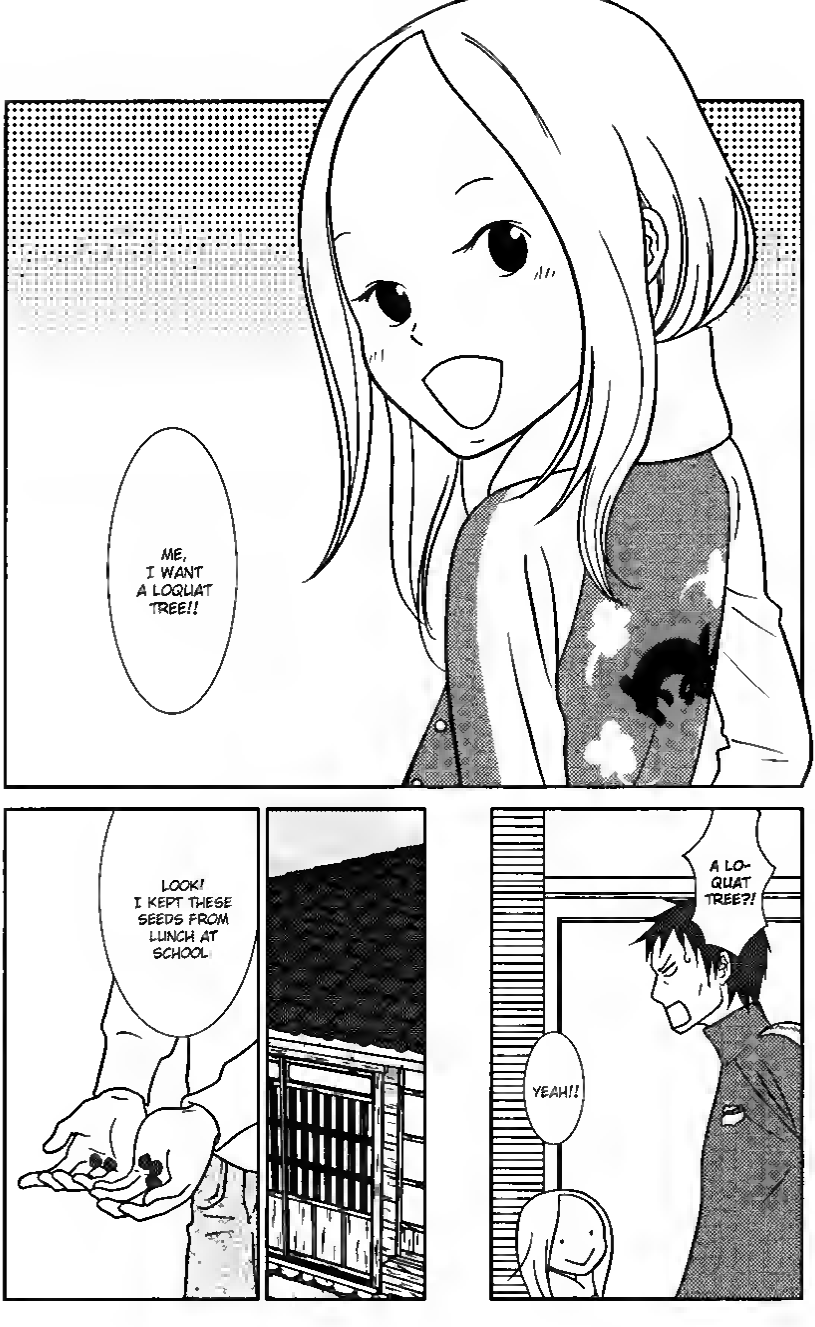


A COMMEMORATIVE TREE?
SNACK
WHAT'S THAT?


WELL.
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE A MEMORY.
UM, LET'S SEE
IT'S A TREE THAT'S PLANTED
TO COMMEMORATE THE BEGINNING OF RIN'S SCHOOL LIFE
COMMEMORATE.
OH. .
BOTH RIN AND THE TREE WILL GROW TALLER EVERY YEAR, YOU SEE.
AT HOME?
I HAVE ONE TOO
AT MY PARENTS'

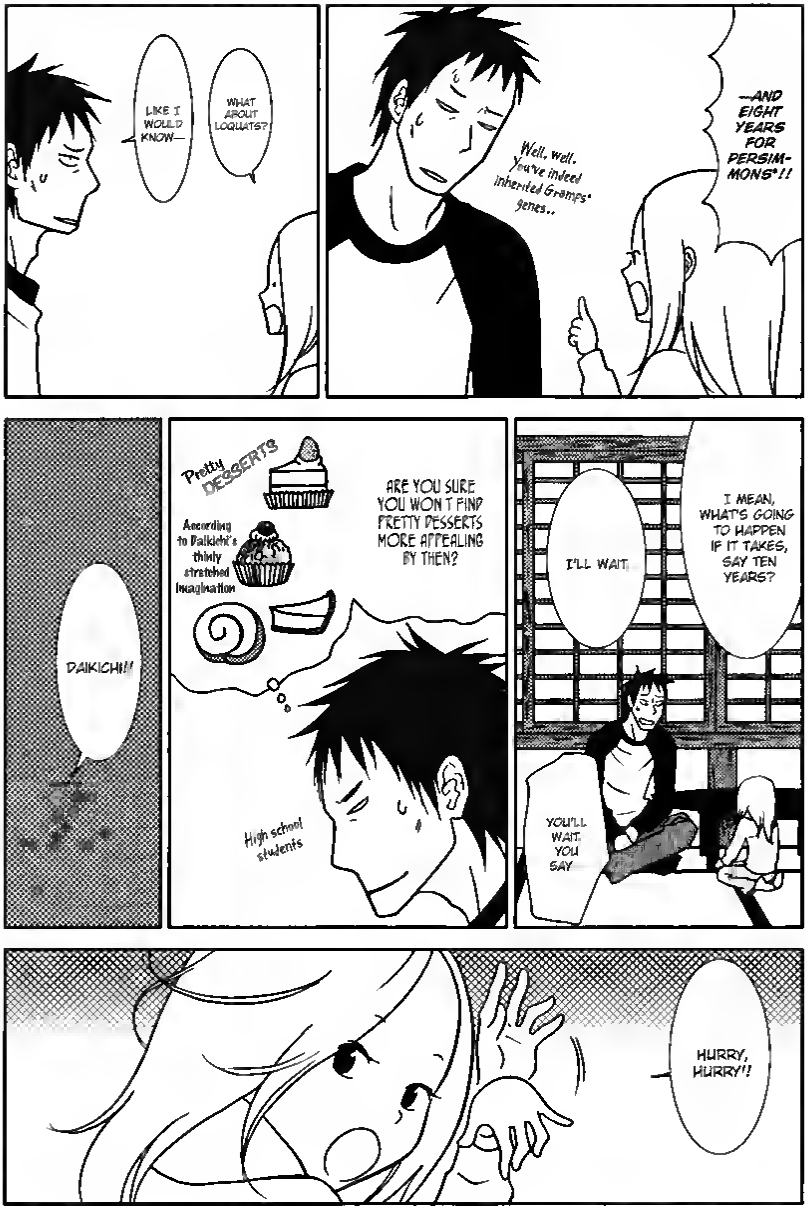

THE GOLDEN OSMANTHUS... THE ONE THAT GIVES OFF A SWEET SMELL?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
APPARENTLY, A GOLDEN OSMANTHUS WAS PLANTED WHEN I WAS BORN,
AND A SILVER OSMANTHUS WHEN MY SISTER WAS BORN.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE SILVER OSMANTHUS?
WELL, THE SILVER OSMANTHUS...
"IT'S NOT FAIR! ONLY DAIKICHI'S TREE GIVES OFF A NICE SMELL!"
KAZUMI USED TO BAWL HER EYES OUT AND GET HER FACE ALL DIRTY AS SHE YANKED THE FLOWERS FROM MY GOLDEN OSMANTHUS
EVERY SINGLE YEAR, MIND YOU.
grab
grab
yikes
IT'S A CLOSE RELATIVE OF THE GOLDEN OSMANTHUS, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY GIVE OFF ANY SMELL.
IT HAS FEWER FLOWERS TOO. SO I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT BORING...

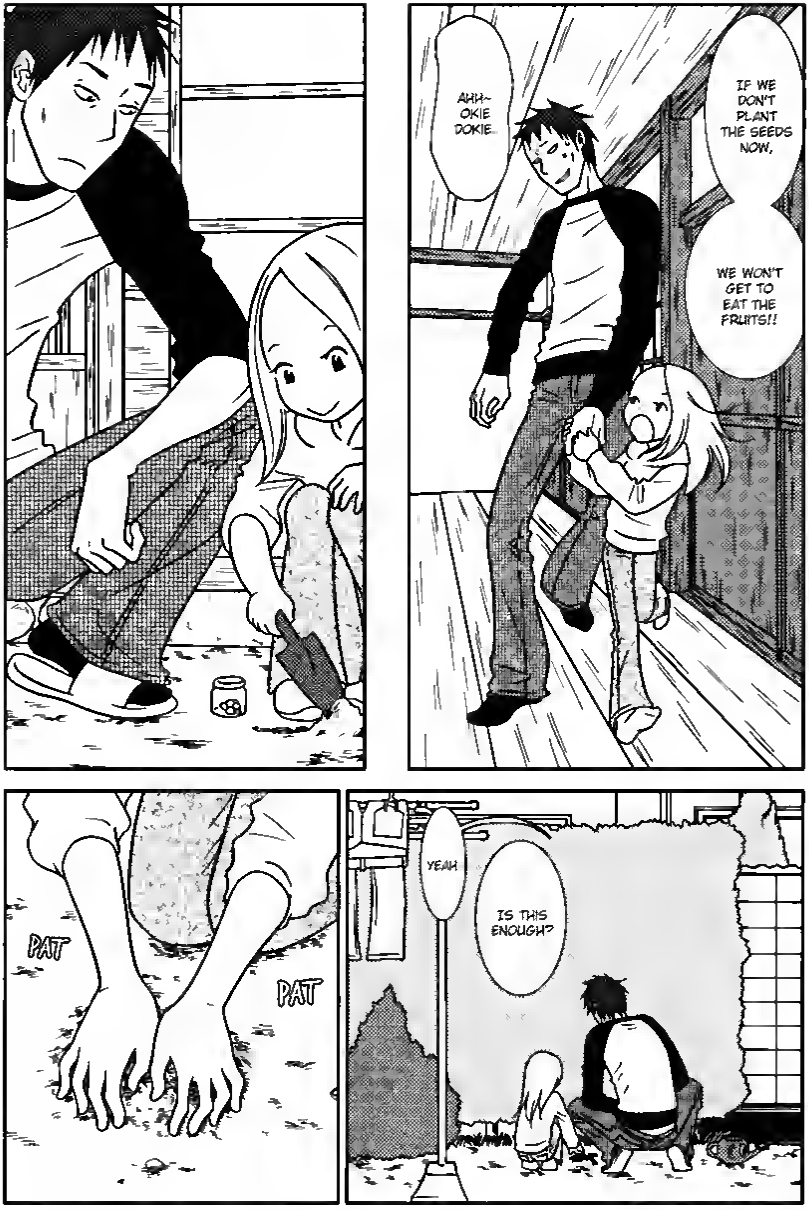
I GOT FED UP, SO I OFFERED TO TRADE TREES WITH HER.
AND GUESS WHAT? "NO HAND-ME-DOWNS!" SHE ACTUALLY SNAPPED AT ME
MAN, IT WAS AN UGLY AFFAIR.
HMM...? I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY FOND MEMORIES OF THAT TREE.
WHY AM I TRYING TO DO THE SAME FOR RIN?
BUT IT'LL DEFINITELY BE MORE EXCITING TO HAVE ONE THAT FLOWERS
AND ONE THAT BEARS BEAUTIFUL FRUITS OR SOMETHING...
THE WORLD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.

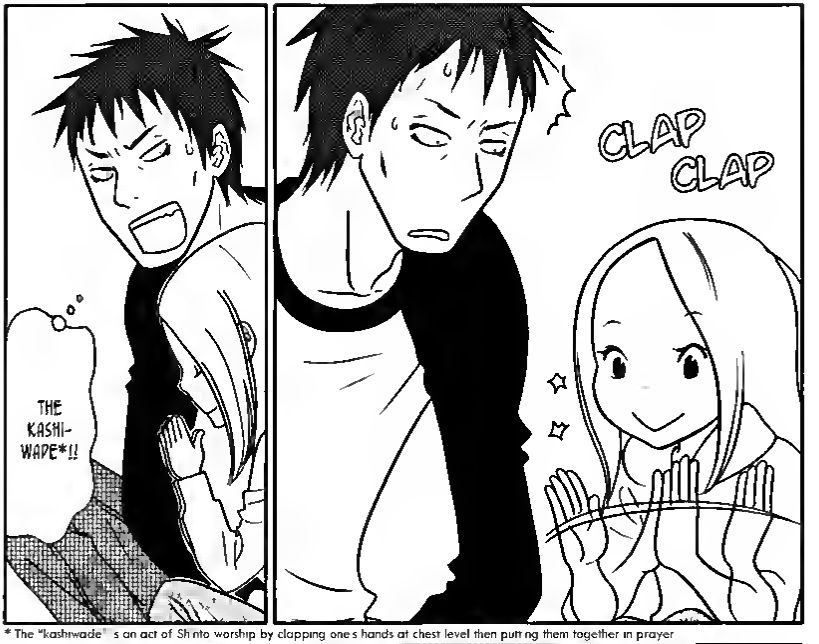

ME, I WANT A LOQUAT TREE!!
LOOK! I KEPT THESE SEEDS FROM LUNCH AT SCHOOL
A LO-QUAT TREE?!
YEAH!!

ARE YOU PLANNING TO PLANT THOSE SEEDS?
YEAH
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OF BUYING A SAPLING TO GROW
A tree about this tall.
WE'LL HAVE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF LOQUATS
giggle
IF THE TREE ACTUALLY BEARS FRUITS...
SEEDS WON'T DO?
W-WELL, IT'S NOT THAT THEY WON'T.
TREES DON'T GROW THE WAY MORNING GLORY AND SUN-FLOWERS DO.
THEY GROW MUCH SLOWER, SO...
...IT TAKES DAYS JUST FOR THE SEEDS TO SPROUT LET ALONE BEAR FRUIT...
AH. THAT'S IT. THREE YEARS FOR PEACHES AND CHEST-NUTS—

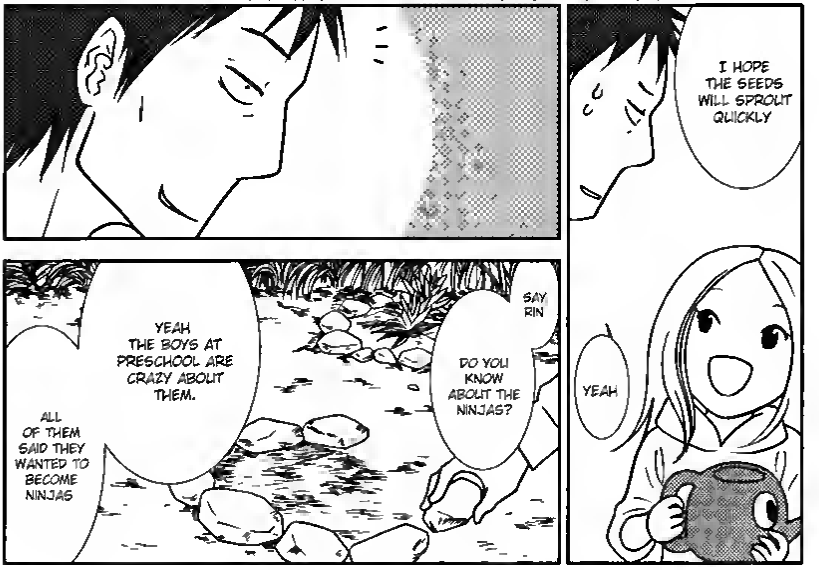
* "Three years for peaches and chestnuts, and eight years for persimmons"
Daikichi recalls the Japanese proverb which essentially means patience will eventually be rewarded. It is based on the general knowledge that peach and chestnut trees take three years to fruit from the time the seeds germinate, while persimmon trees take eight years.


LIKE I WOULD KNOW—
WHAT ABOUT LOQUATS?
Well, well. You've indeed inherited Gramps' genes..
—AND EIGHT YEARS FOR PERSIM-MONS*!!
DAIKICHI!!
Pretty DESSERTS
According to Daikichi's thinly stretched imagination
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T FIND PRETTY DESSERTS MORE APPEALING BY THEN?
High school students
I'LL WAIT.
I MEAN, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF IT TAKES, SAY TEN YEARS?
YOU'LL WAIT, YOU SAY.
HURRY, HURRY!!

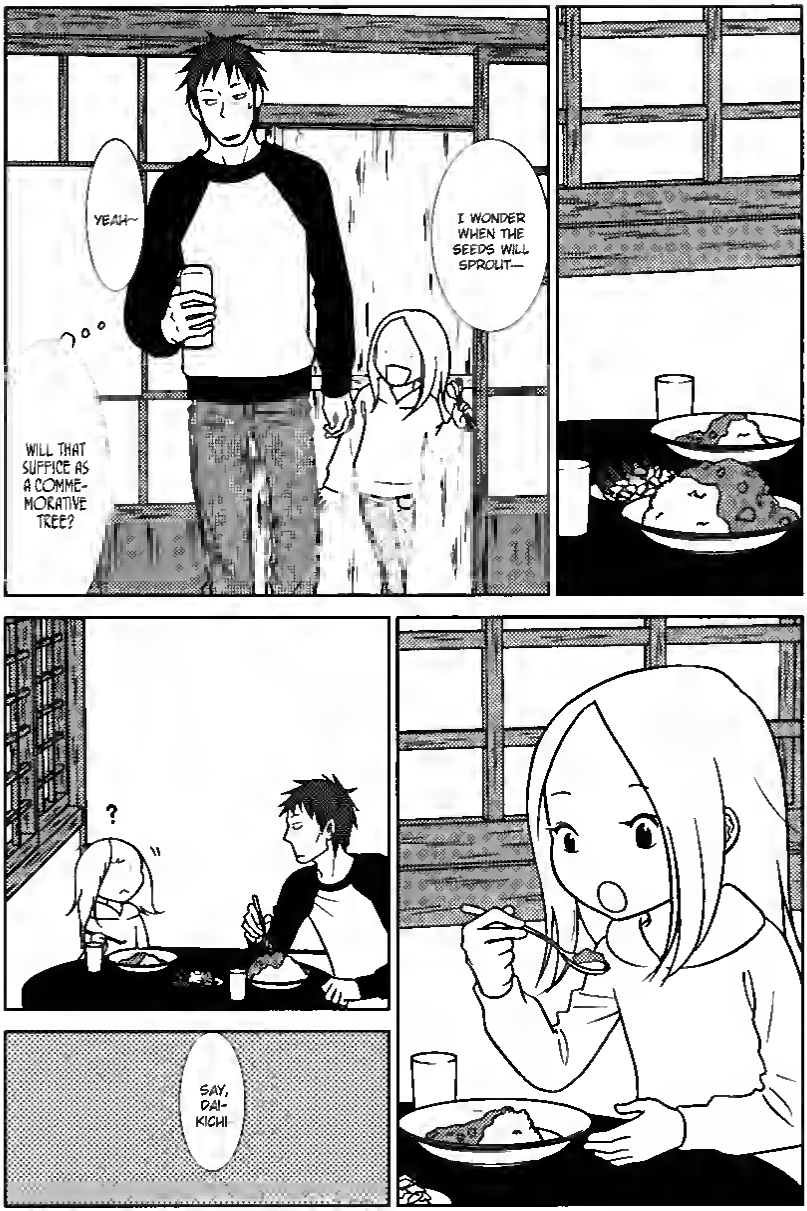

AHH~ OKIE DOKIE.
IF WE DON'T PLANT THE SEEDS NOW,
WE WON'T GET TO EAT THE FRUITS!!
PAT
PAT
YEAH
IS THIS ENOUGH?



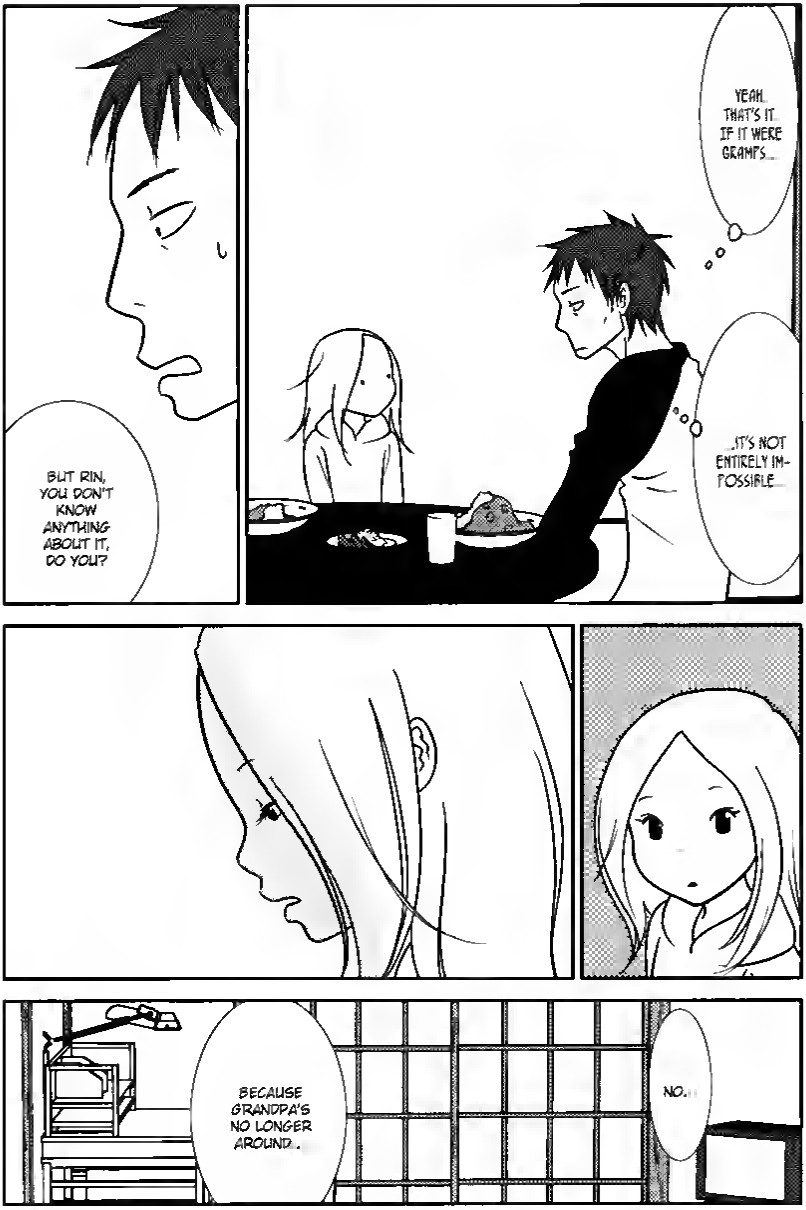
* The "kashiwade" is an act of Shinto worship by clapping one's hands at chest level then putting them together in prayer


I HOPE THE SEEDS WILL SPROUT QUICKLY
YEAH
SAY RIN
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NINJAS?
YEAH THE BOYS AT PRESCHOOL ARE CRAZY ABOUT THEM.
ALL OF THEM SAID THEY WANTED TO BECOME NINJAS

LIKE THIS!!
HOP
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT ON YOUR LOQUAT TREE?
It was just an offhand suggestion -!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
YOU KNOW WHAT? APPARENTLY NINJAS TRAIN BY JUMPING OVER A HEMP TREE EVERY-DAY
AS THE TREE GROWS RAPIDLY TO EXTRAORDI-NARY HEIGHTS, SO DOES THE NINJAS' ABILITY TO JUMP
WOW~
THAT'S AMA-ZING
I didn't expect her to be taken with the idea...
BEATS ME...
HOW TALL DOES A LOQUAT TREE GROW?
DAI-KICHI, DAI-KICHI.
HOP
ABOUT AS HIGH AS THE ROOF OF OUR HOUSE?
HOP
THAT'S IT THAT'S IT
LIKE THIS?

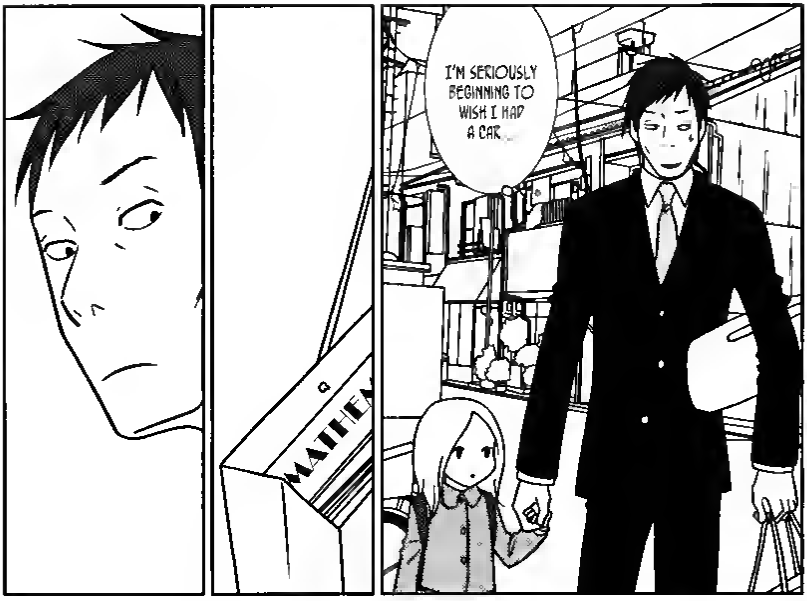

YEAH~
I WONDER WHEN THE SEEDS WILL SPROUT—
WILL THAT SUFFICE AS A COMME-MORATIVE TREE?
?
SAY, DAI-KICHI

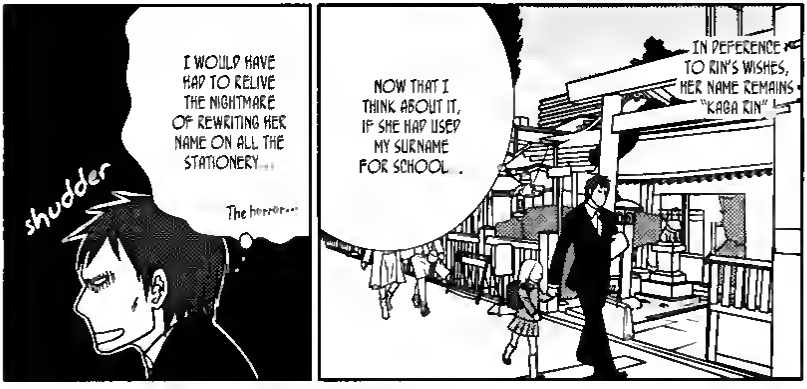
BUT DAIKICHI'S GOLDEN OSMANTHUS MARKS THE BIRTH OF DAIKICHI,
SO IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT?
THAT LOQUAT TREE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF MY SCHOOL DAYS, DOESN'T IT?
UH-HUH.
WHOA, YOU'RE A GENIUS, KIPPO~!!
I WONDER IF I HAVE SOMETHING LIKE DAIKICHI'S GOLDEN OSMANTHUS?
I WONDER IF IT'S AT GRANDPA'S HOUSE?
WOULD THAT MOTHER OF HERS HAPPEN TO BE A TREE-PLANTING KIND OF PERSON?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT JUST TO ILLUSTRATE MY POINT...
You're an idiot, Daikichi.
M-MY GOLDEN OSMANTHUS...


BUT RIN, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, DO YOU?
YEAH. THAT'S IT. IF IT WERE GRAMPS...
...IT'S NOT ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE...
BECAUSE GRANDPA'S NO LONGER AROUND..
NO...

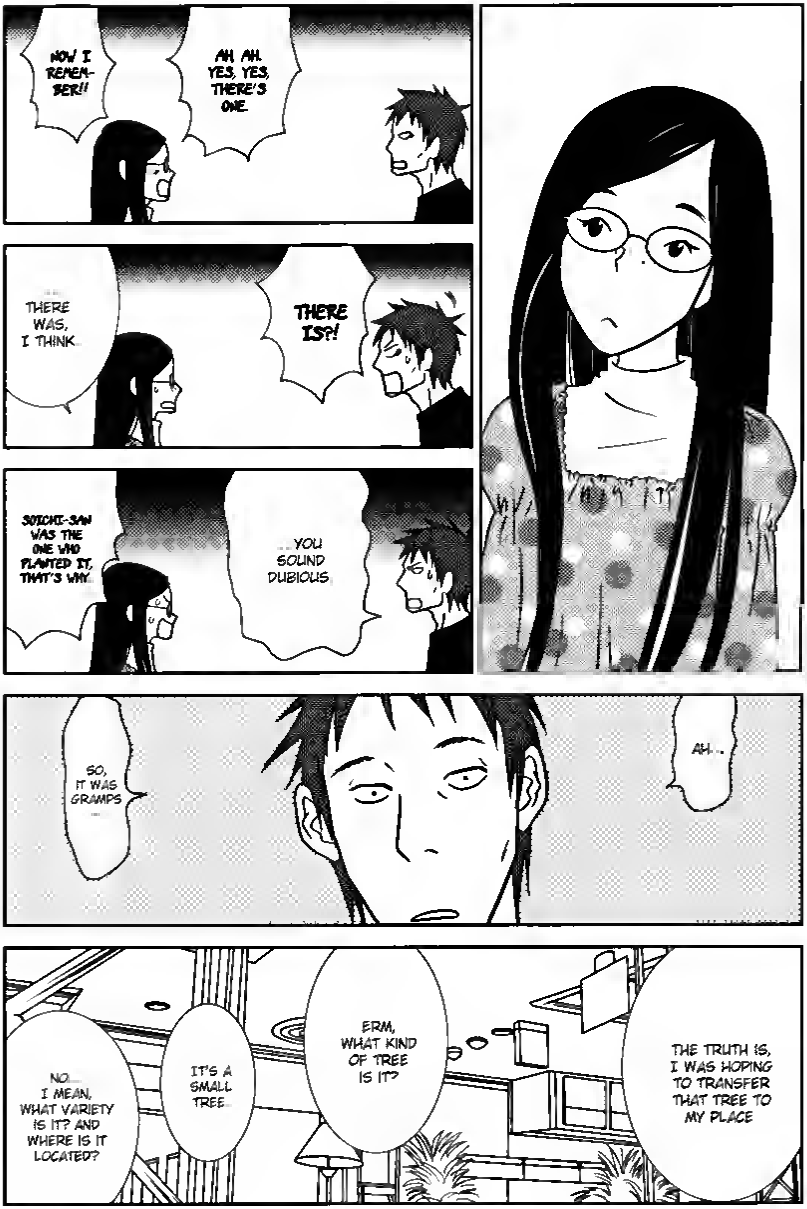
NOBODY ELSE WOULD..
IF I DON'T KNOW,
I SHOULD HAVE SHUT MY BIG MOUTH ABOUT THE GOLDEN OSMANTHUS.
SHEESH
AH, I'M SORRY
YOU SHOULDN'T PLACE YOUR ELBOW ON THE TABLE WHEN YOU EAT
PROP

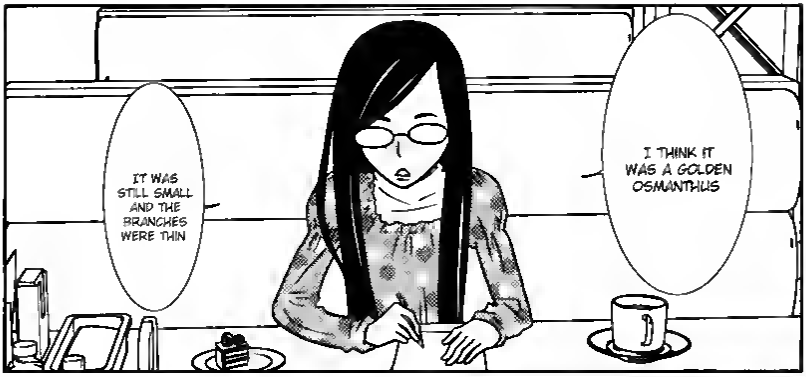
DAI-KICHI
WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.
HURRY, HURRY
WE'VE ALREADY STARTED AFTER-SCHOOL DAYCARE.
CLICK
CLICK
BUT FROM TODAY ONWARDS, RIN WILL OFFICIALLY BECOME A FIRST GRADER.
Ahh... She's still doing it!
HOP


I'M SERIOUSLY BEGINNING TO WISH I HAD A CAR...
MATHEM

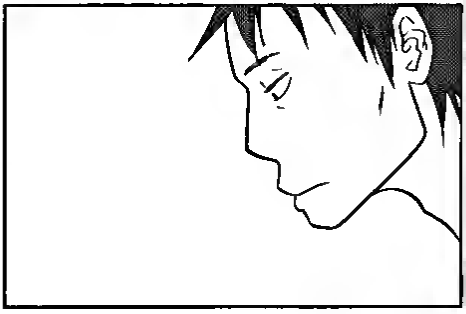

shudder
I WOULD HAVE HAD TO RELIVE THE NIGHTMARE OF REWRITING HER NAME ON ALL THE STATIONERY...
The horror...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IF SHE HAD USED MY SURNAME FOR SCHOOL...
IN PEFERENCE TO RIN'S WISHES, HER NAME REMAINS "KAGA RIN"

I NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN.
HMMMMMPH
IT'S NOT WITH PLEASURE THAT I'M CALLING ON YOU.
LIKEWISE. YOUR THOUGHTS ECHO MINE EXACTLY.
And here's a photo of Rin on her first day at school.
?
EH?
RIN'S... TREE?

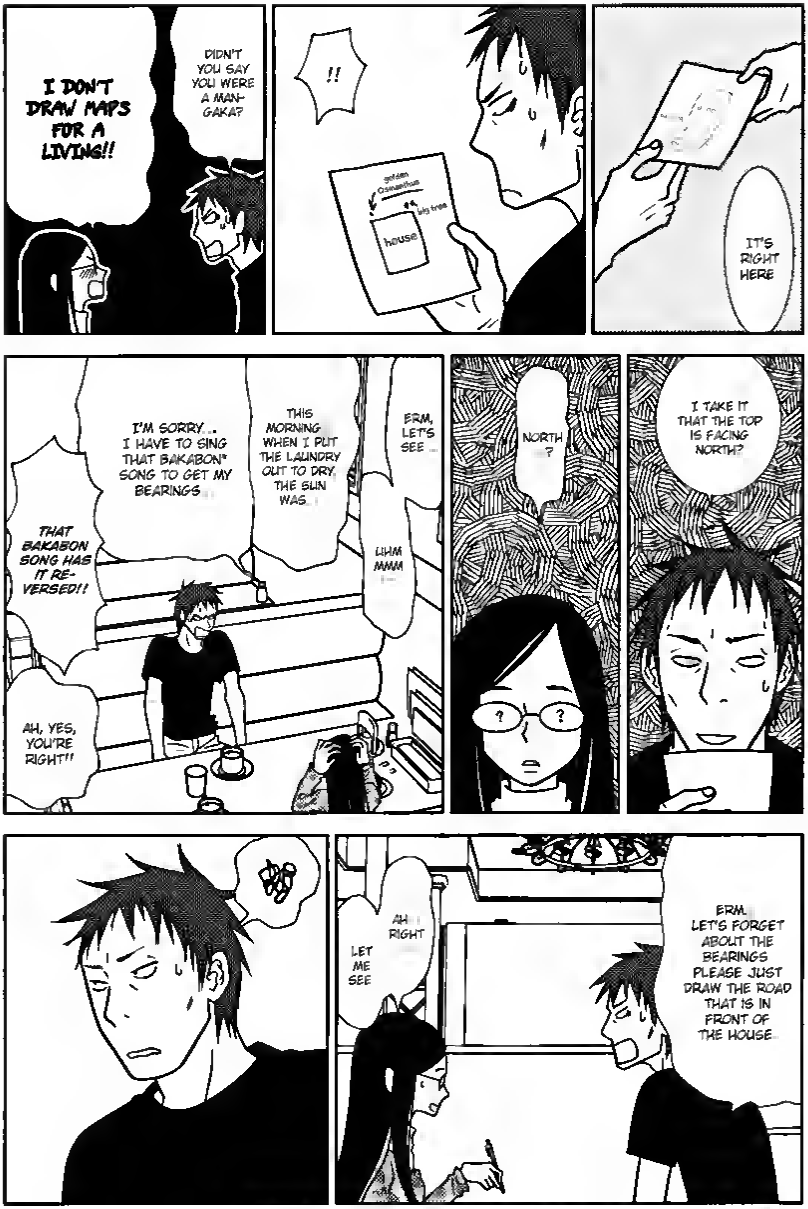

NOW I REMEMBER!!
AH, AH. YES, YES, THERE'S ONE.
THERE WAS, I THINK...
THERE IS?!
SOICHI-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO PLANTED IT, THAT'S WHY.
...YOU SOUND DUBIOUS.
SO, IT WAS GRAMPS...
AH...
NO... I MEAN, WHAT VARIETY IS IT? AND WHERE IS IT LOCATED?
IT'S A SMALL TREE...
ERM, WHAT KIND OF TREE IS IT?
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS HOPING TO TRANSFER THAT TREE TO MY PLACE


IT WAS STILL SMALL AND THE BRANCHES WERE THIN
I THINK IT WAS A GOLDEN OSMANTHUS

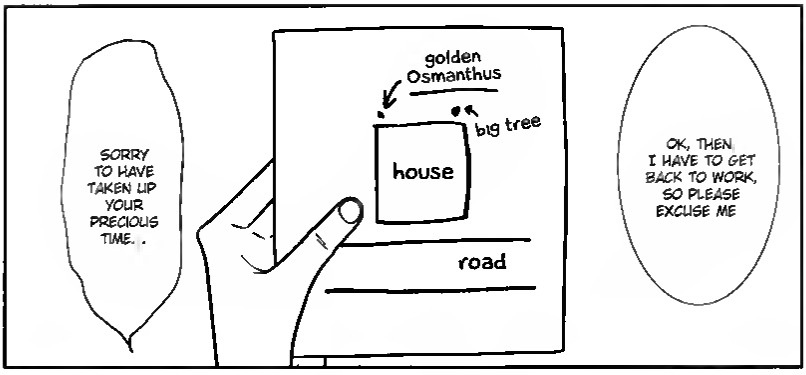
HMM... SO, GRAMP'S PLANTED A GOLDEN OSMANTHUS TOO...

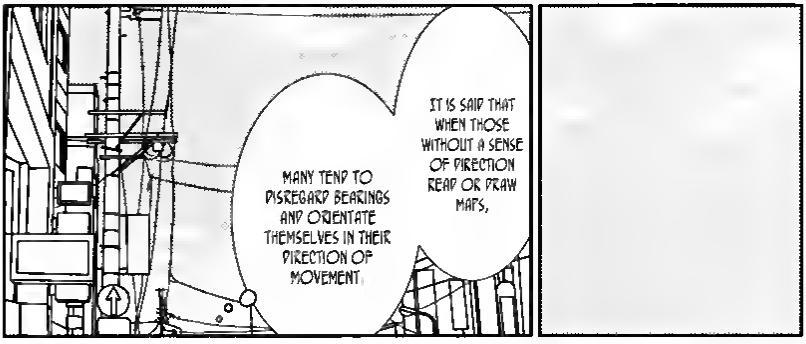


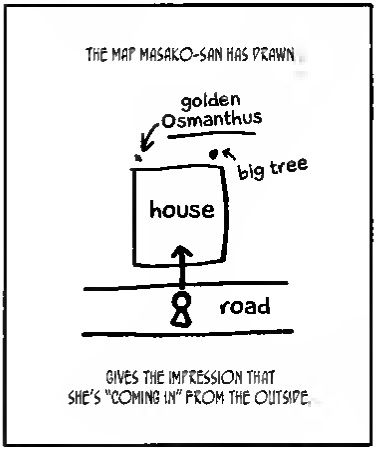
...EH?
A GOLDEN OSMAN-THUS?

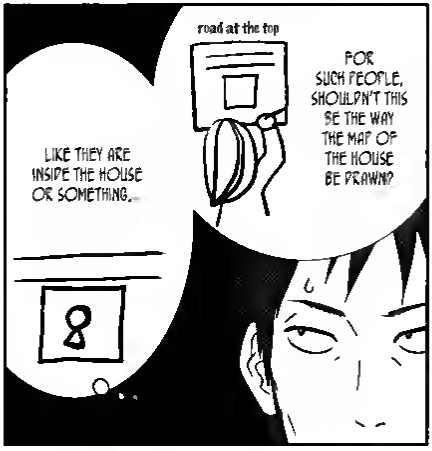

I DON'T DRAW MAPS FOR A LIVING!!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE A MANGAKA?
!!
golden Osmanthus
big tree
house
IT'S RIGHT HERE
ERM, LET'S SEE...
THIS MORNING WHEN I PUT THE LAUNDRY OUT TO DRY, THE SUN WAS...
I'M SORRY... I HAVE TO SING THAT BAKABON* SONG TO GET MY BEARINGS...
THAT BAKABON SONG HAS IT REVERSED!!
AH, YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!!
LHM MMM...
NORTH...?
? ?
I TAKE IT THAT THE TOP IS FACING NORTH?
ERM... LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE BEARINGS PLEASE JUST DRAW THE ROAD THAT IS IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE...
AH, RIGHT
LET ME SEE

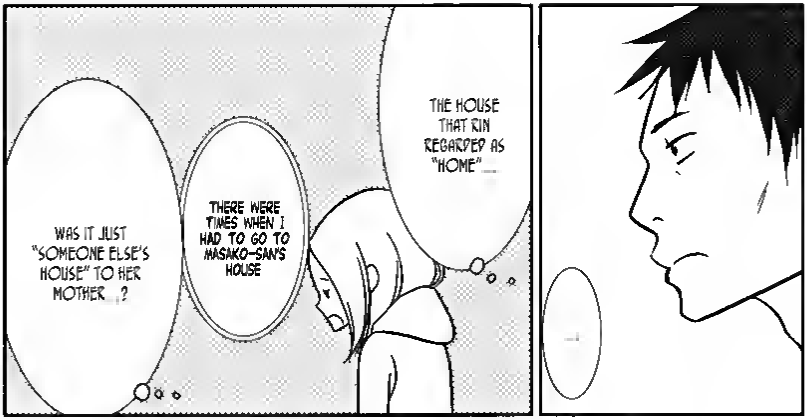
* **Tensei Bakaban** is a manga and Japanese anime series which revolves around a family of dimwits. It has been compared to the American cartoon, The Simpsons. The song in question is the ending theme of the animation which begins with "Mister Sun, who had risen from the west, is setting in the east"


SORRY TO HAVE TAKEN UP YOUR PRECIOUS TIME. .
golden Osmanthus
big tree
house
road
OK, THEN I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK, SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME

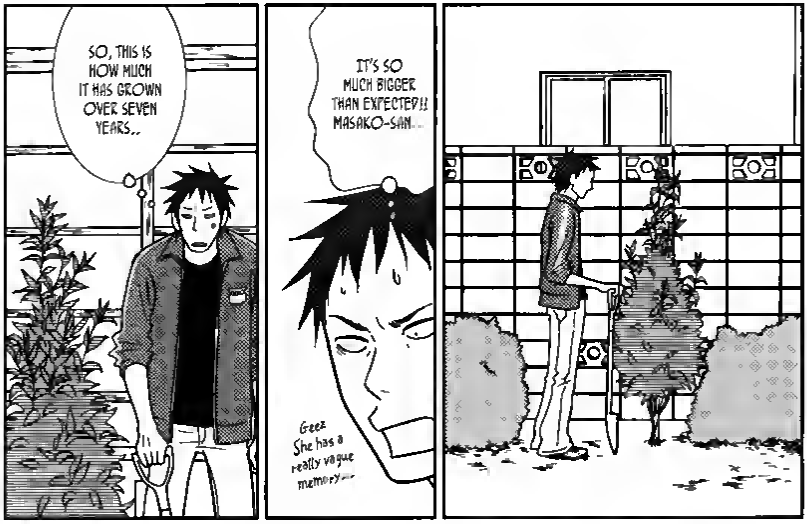

MANY TEND TO DISREGARD BEARINGS AND ORIENTATE THEMSELVES IN THEIR DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT.
IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THOSE WITHOUT A SENSE OF DIRECTION READ OR DRAW MAPS,


THE MAP MASAKO-SAN HAS DRAWN
golden Osmanthus
big tree
house
road
GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE'S "COMING IN" FROM THE OUTSIDE.


road at the top
FOR SUCH PEOPLE, SHOULDN'T THIS BE THE WAY THE MAP OF THE HOUSE BE DRAWN?
LIKE THEY ARE INSIDE THE HOUSE OR SOMETHING...


THE HOUSE THAT RIN REGARDED AS "HOME"...
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I HAD TO GO TO MASAKO-SAN'S HOUSE
WAS IT JUST "SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE" TO HER MOTHER...?
...

FOR A LONG TIME, I COULDN'T SHAKE OFF THAT UNRELIABLE MAP FROM MY MIND.

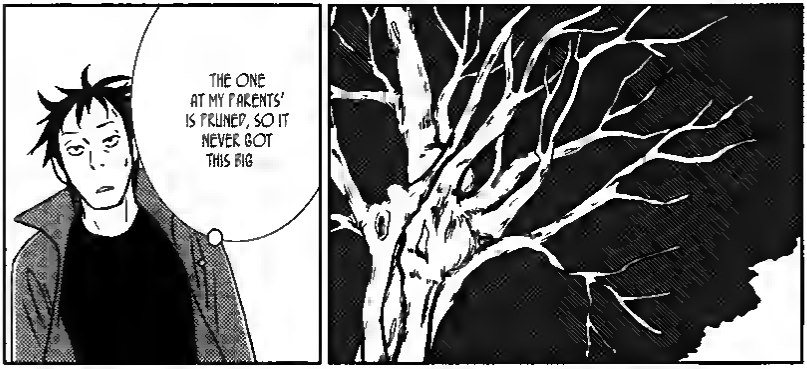

SO, THIS IS HOW MUCH IT HAS GROWN OVER SEVEN YEARS...
IT'S SO MUCH BIGGER THAN EXPECTED!! MASAKO-SAN...
Geez She has a really vague memory...

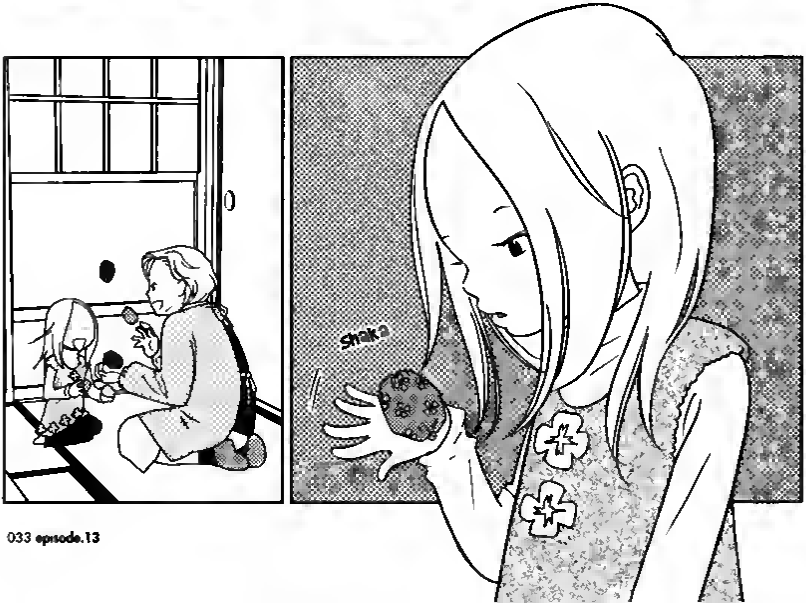
SHO VEL
IT FEELS WEIRD SOMEHOW...
SHO VEL
BUT TO THINK THAT BOTH MY TREE AND RIN'S ARE GOLDEN OSMANTHUS...
I BET RIN WILL BE SURPRISED THOUGH...
WELL, I SUPPOSE THE GOLDEN OSMANTHUS IS A PRETTY COMMON GARDEN TREE...
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A COINCIDENCE.

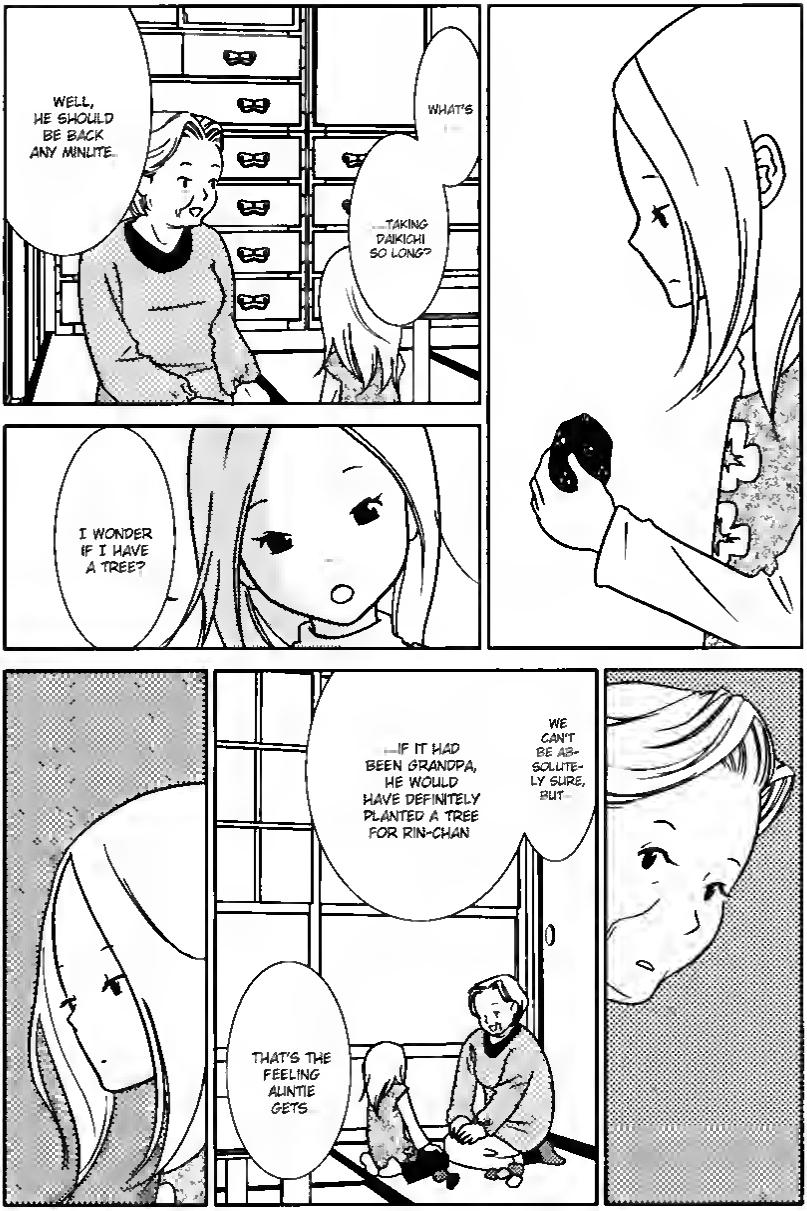
TIME TO GO.
TIGHTEN
ALL RIGHT
rustle
rustle rustle
rustle rustle

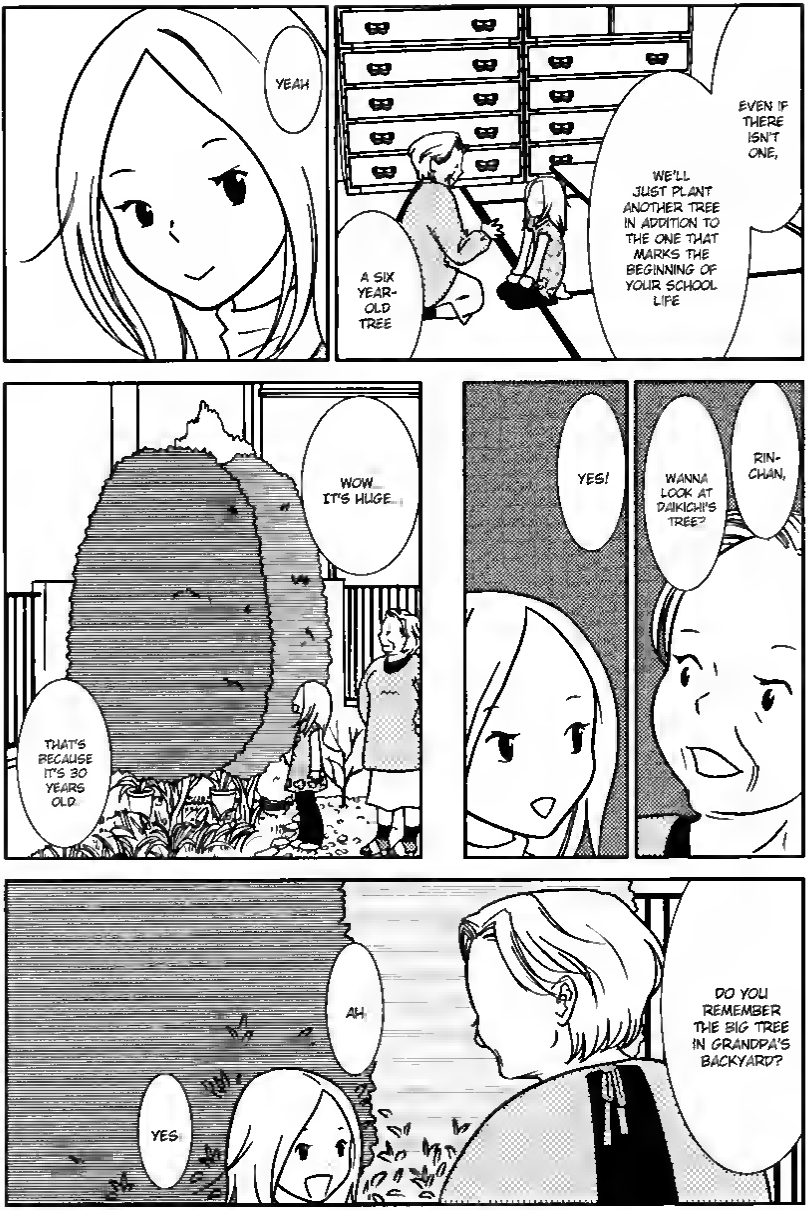
HUH?
IS THIS A GOLDEN OSMANTHUS TOO?
This can't possibly be Rin's...
!!
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle

IT'LL ACTUALLY BECOME THIS BIG...?
WHOA ..

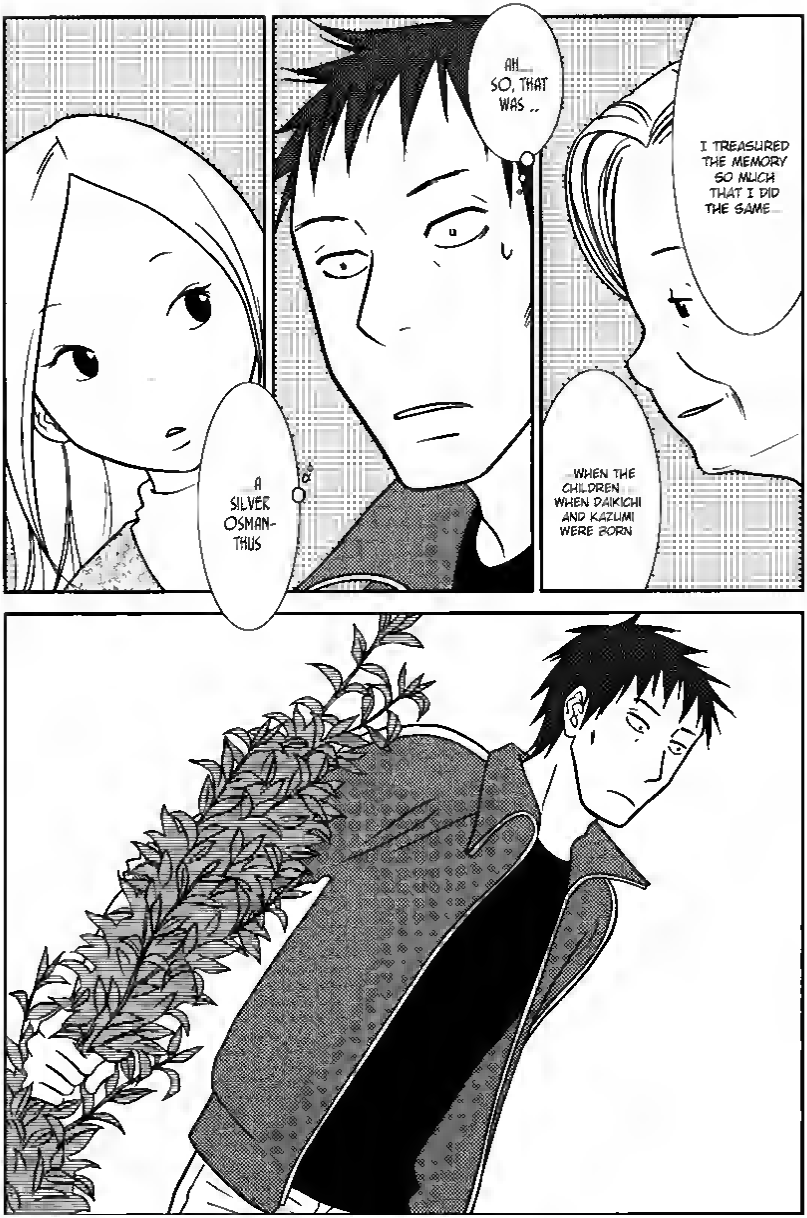

THE ONE AT MY PARENTS' IS PRUNED, SO IT NEVER GOT THIS BIG

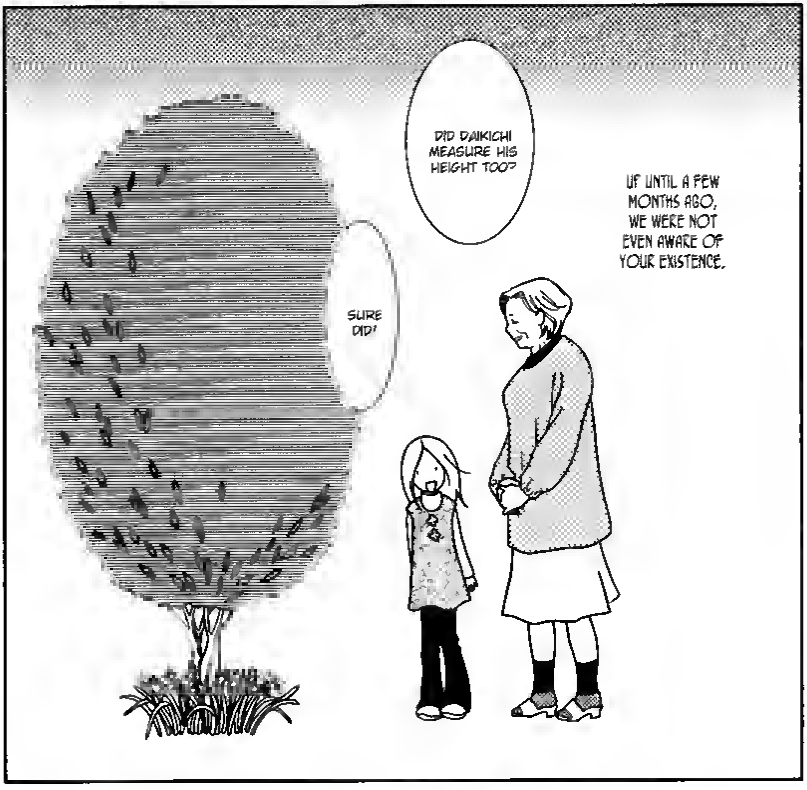

Shaik

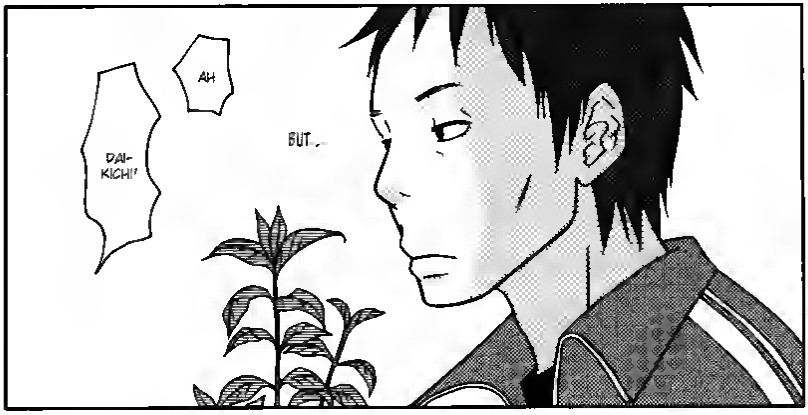

WELL, HE SHOULD BE BACK ANY MINUTE...
WHAT'S ...TAKING DAIKICHI SO LONG?
I WONDER IF I HAVE A TREE?
WE CAN'T BE ABSOLUTELY SURE, BUT...
...IF IT HAD BEEN GRANDPA, HE WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY PLANTED A TREE FOR RIN-CHAN
THAT'S THE FEELING AUNTIE GETS...

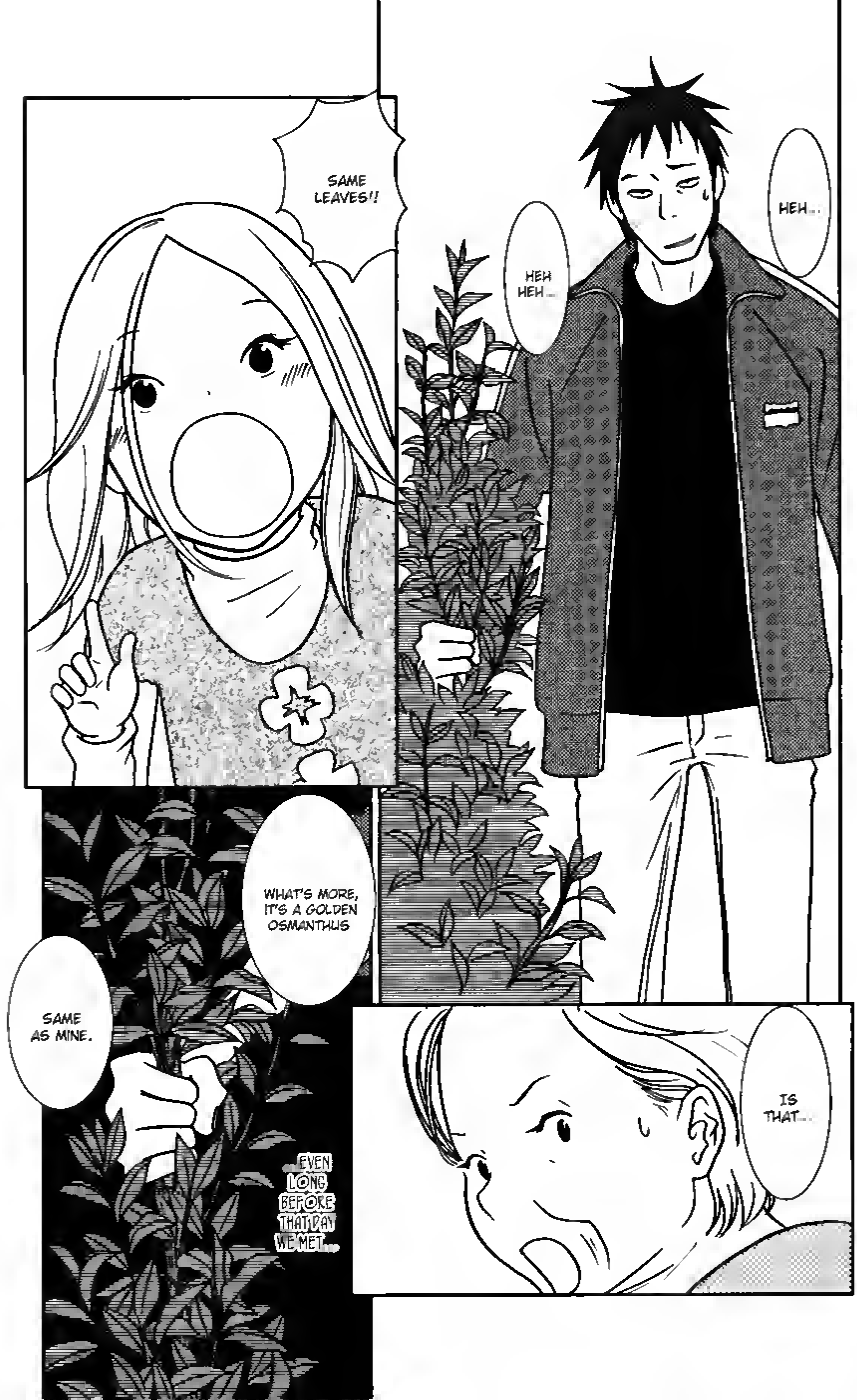

YEAH
EVEN IF THERE ISN'T ONE,
WE'LL JUST PLANT ANOTHER TREE IN ADDITION TO THE ONE THAT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR SCHOOL LIFE
A SIX YEAR-OLD TREE
WOW... IT'S HUGE...
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S 30 YEARS OLD.
YES!
WANNA LOOK AT DAIKICHI'S TREE?
RIN-CHAN,
DO YOU REMEMBER THE BIG TREE IN GRANDPA'S BACKYARD?
AH.
YES.

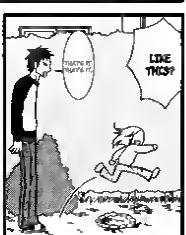
WHEN MY BROTHER WAS BORN, IT SEEMS A GOLDEN OSMANTHUS WAS PLANTED
GRANDPA PLANTED IT WHEN I WAS BORN
WELL, THAT'S MY TREE
IT'S A SILVER OSMAN-THUS
REAL-LY~?
I REMEMBER MEASURING MY HEIGHT AGAINST IT WHEN I WAS A CHILD
THAT'S RIGHT
SO, AUNTIE AND KAZUMI-NEECHAN HAVE THE SAME KIND OF TREE


I TREASURED THE MEMORY SO MUCH THAT I DID THE SAME...
WHEN THE CHILDREN WHEN DAIKICHI AND KAZUMI WERE BORN
AH... SO, THAT WAS...
A SILVER OSMANTHUS

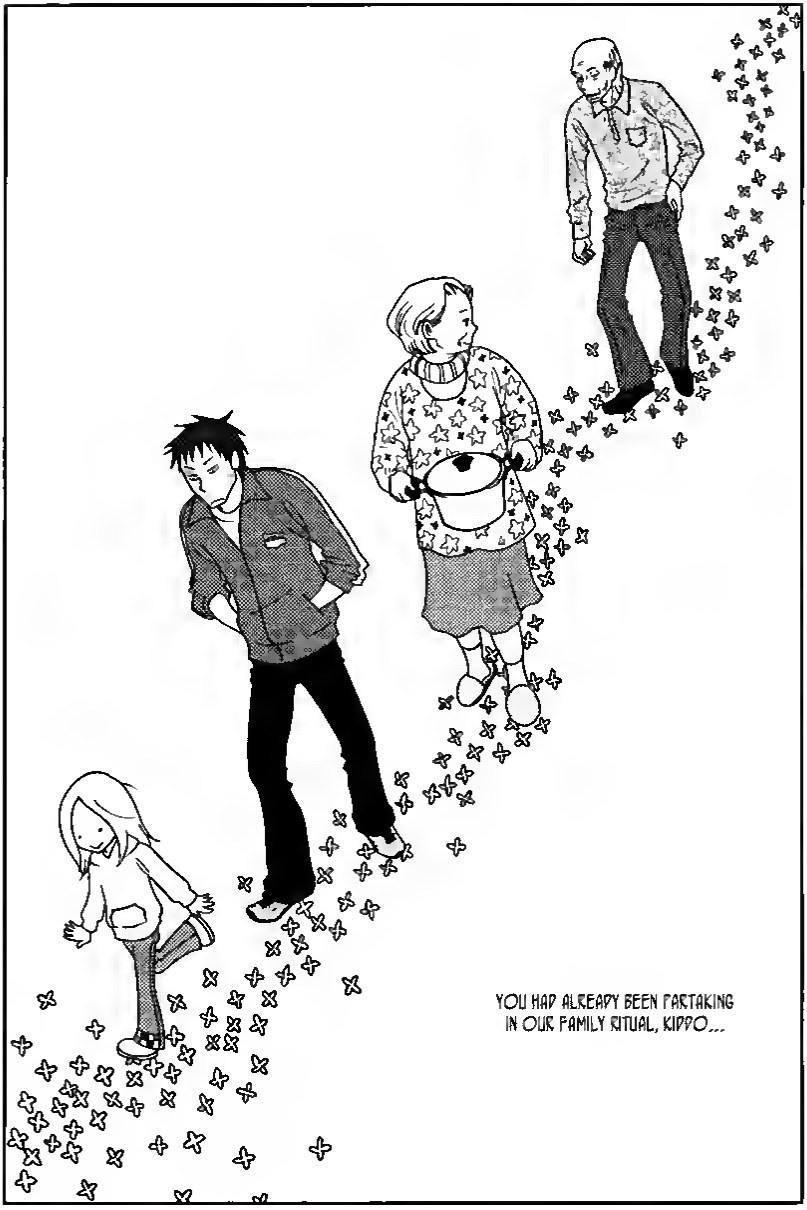

DID DAIKICHI MEASURE HIS HEIGHT TOO?
SURE DID!
UP UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, WE WERE NOT EVEN AWARE OF YOUR EXISTENCE.


AH
DAI-KICHI!
BUT...


HEH...
HEH HEH...
SAME LEAVES!!
IS THAT...
WHAT'S MORE, IT'S A GOLDEN OSMANTHUS
SAME AS MINE.
EVEN LONG BEFORE THAT DAY WE MET...



うさぎドロップ
usagi drop
宇仁田ゆみ


YOU HAD ALREADY BEEN PARTAKING
IN OUR FAMILY RITUAL, KIPPO...

J-SIS PRESENTS

Usagi Drop ch. 13

Raw providers: Michex and MegaVolt's Den

Translator: Hare.Kotoba

Proofreader: Roniz

Cleaner: Hanz

Typesetter: Phanzanu

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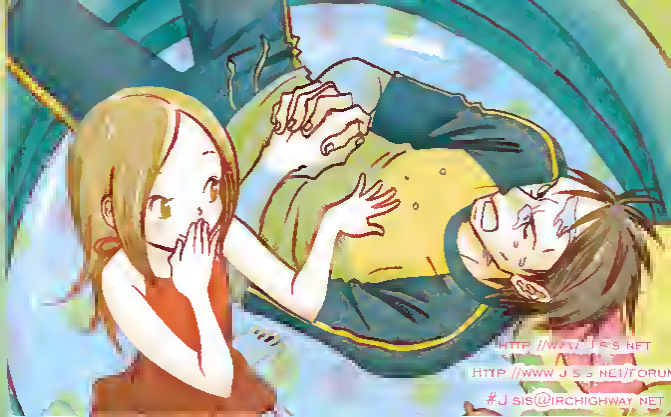

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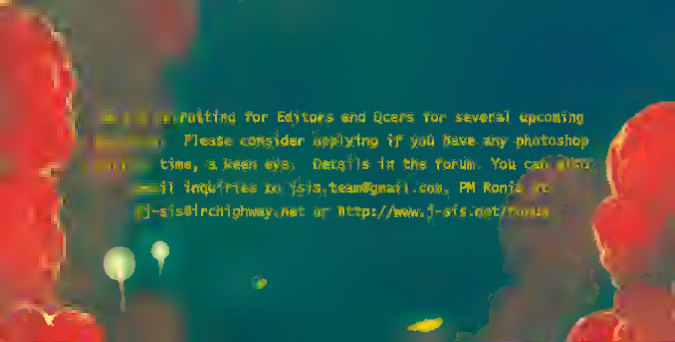
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time, a keen eye.
Details in the forum. You can also
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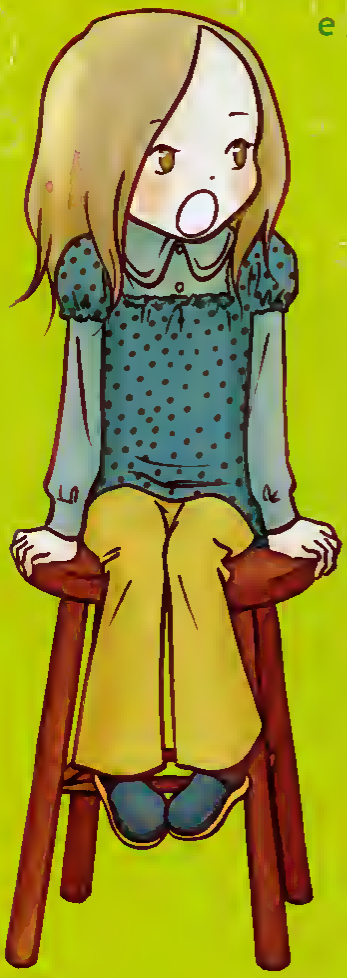

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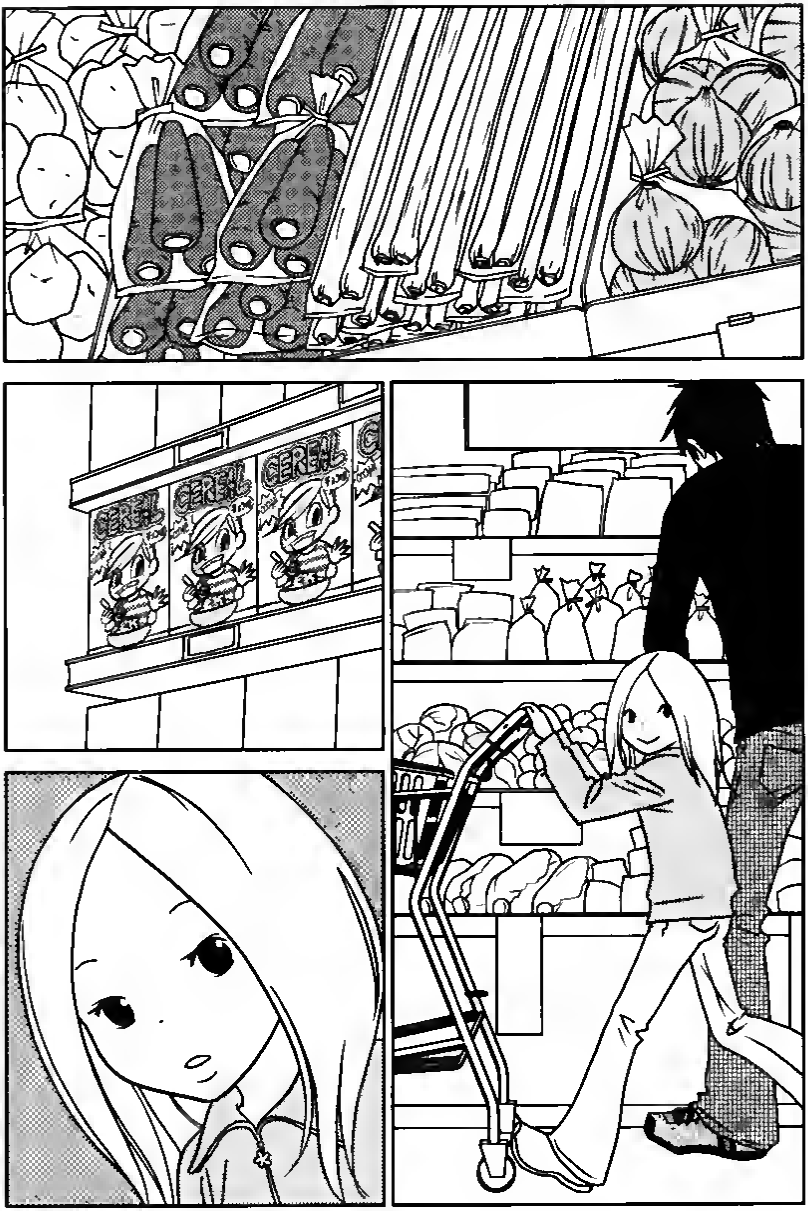
episode.14

usagi drop

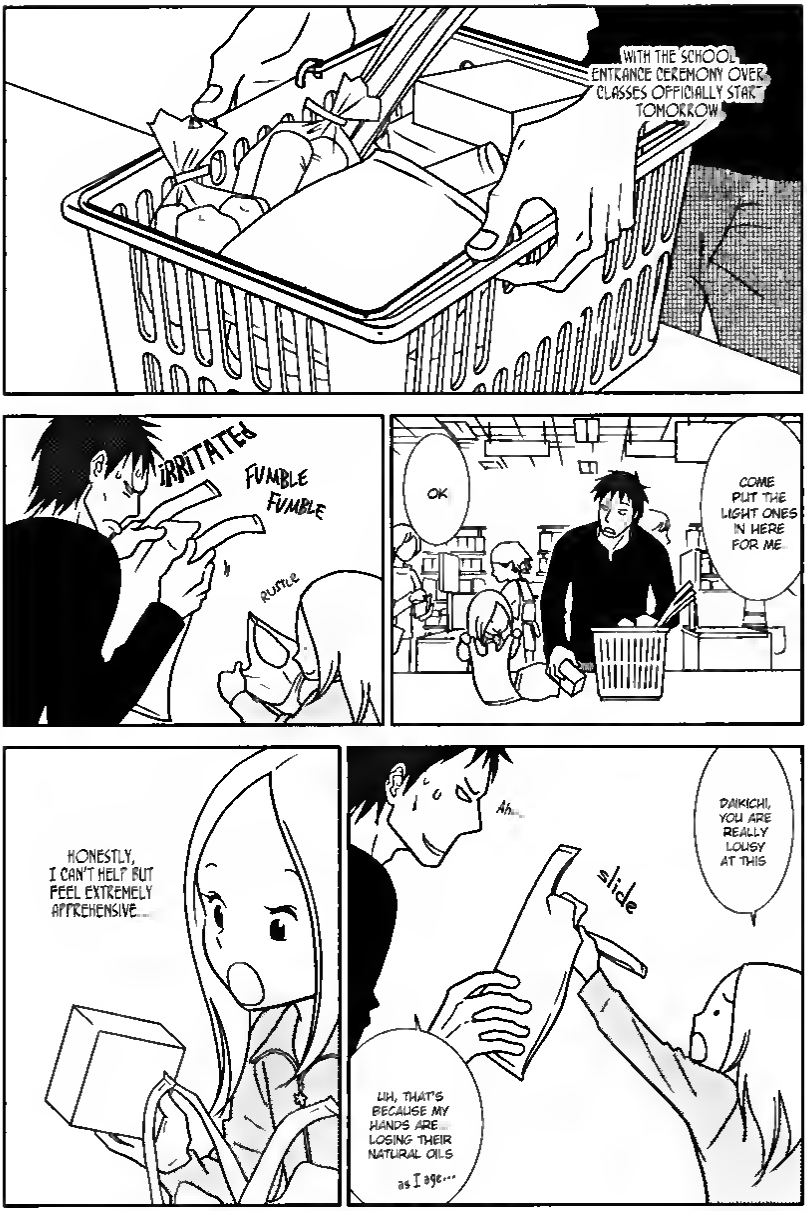

CEREAL
CEREAL
CEREAL

GONE?!
RIN?
YOU NEARLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK. DON'T DISAP-PEAR ON ME SO SUDDENLY.
OY, RIN!
THERE YOU ARE

DON'T WANDER OFF ALONE, YOU HEAR?
UH-HUH.
DON'T YOU "UH-HUH" ME
YOU SHOULD ALSO WATCH IT ON YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL, KIDDO.
CEREAL
CHOCOLATE FLAVOR
HMM?
WHAT'RE YOU HOLDING?
...NO
STARE
YOU'VE NEVER HAD THIS BEFORE?
CEREAL?
OH, IT'S CEREAL.

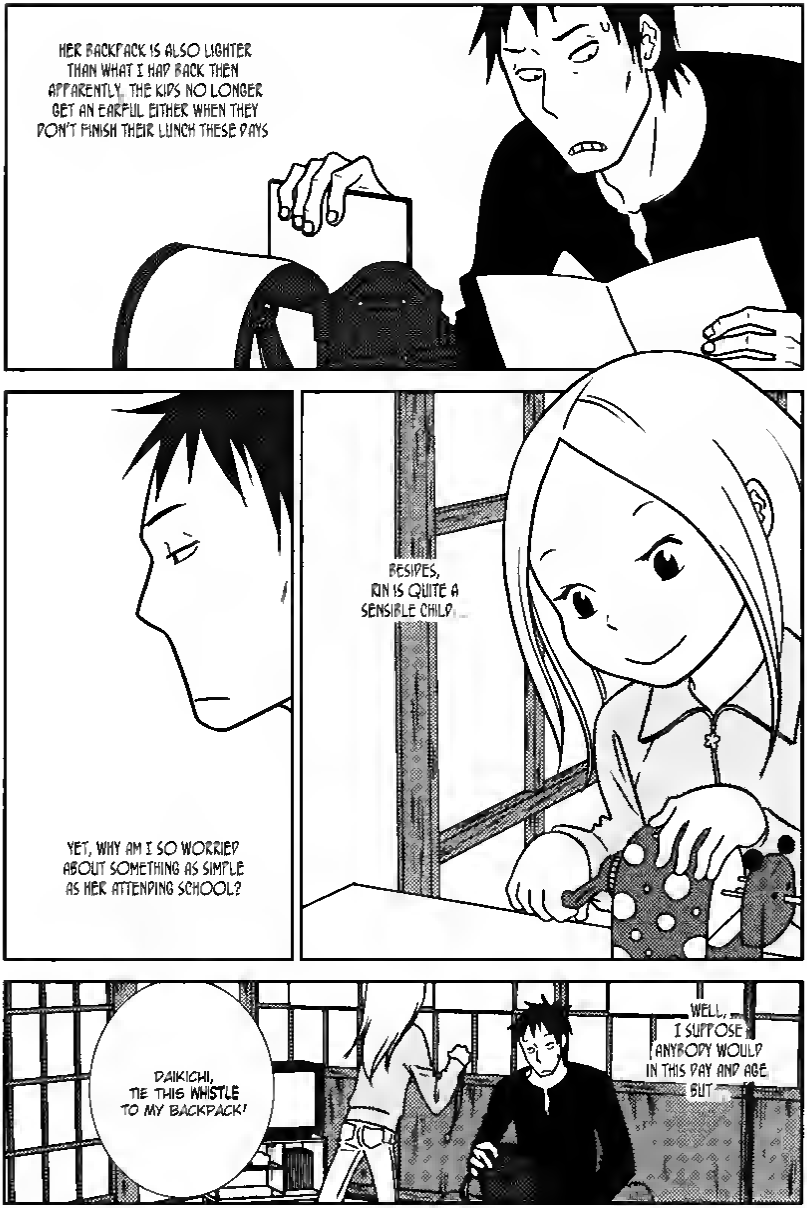
A SNACK?!
OH
IT LOOKS REALLY TASTY, SO...
...GET THIS AS A SNACK?
CAN WE...
CEREAL
CHOCOLATE FLAVOR
BUT, THIS IS FOR BREAKFAST, YOU KNOW.
NAH IT'S FINE I'LL BUY IT.
MAYBE I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS...

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS .
NO UHM..
IS IT OK TO EAT JUNK FOOD AS A MEAL?
!!
THIS MAY LOOK LIKE JUNK FOOD, BUT IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN EAT AS A MEAL!! YOU EAT IT INSTEAD OF RICE OR BREAD
NAH
DAIKICHI TOO?
THIS STUFF WON'T FILL MY STOMACH
WHY NOT HAVE IT FOR BREAKFAST TOMORROW?
YEAH!
THAT SOUNDS GREAT!


WITH THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY OVER, CLASSES OFFICIALLY START TOMORROW
IRRITATED
FUMBLE FUMBLE
RUSTLE
OK
COME PUT THE LIGHT ONES IN HERE FOR ME
HONESTLY, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL EXTREMELY APPREHENSIVE...
Ah...
slide
DAIKICHI, YOU ARE REALLY LOUSY AT THIS
UH, THAT'S BECAUSE MY HANDS ARE LOSING THEIR NATURAL OILS as I age...

GOT EVERYTHING READY?
AH!
...ABOUT RIN WALKING TO SCHOOL, EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND THE ROUTE IS HARDLY DANGEROUS...
...AND IT WAS MUCH FURTHER THAN THE DISTANCE RIN HAS TO WALK
I DON'T REMEMBER HAVING TO DO THAT WHEN I WAS A KID...
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT SAYS HERE TO "PLEASE VERIFY"...
I WAS WALKING TO PRESCHOOL BY MYSELF AT AGE SIX...
WHAT'S MORE, I WAS ALREADY RIDING MY BIKE TO VISIT FRIENDS AT THAT AGE...
EH~~? HOW TEDIOUS...
I'M SUPPOSED TO "GET THE ADULTS AT HOME TO VERIFY" THIS CLASS SCHEDULE *
Attention to all guardians,

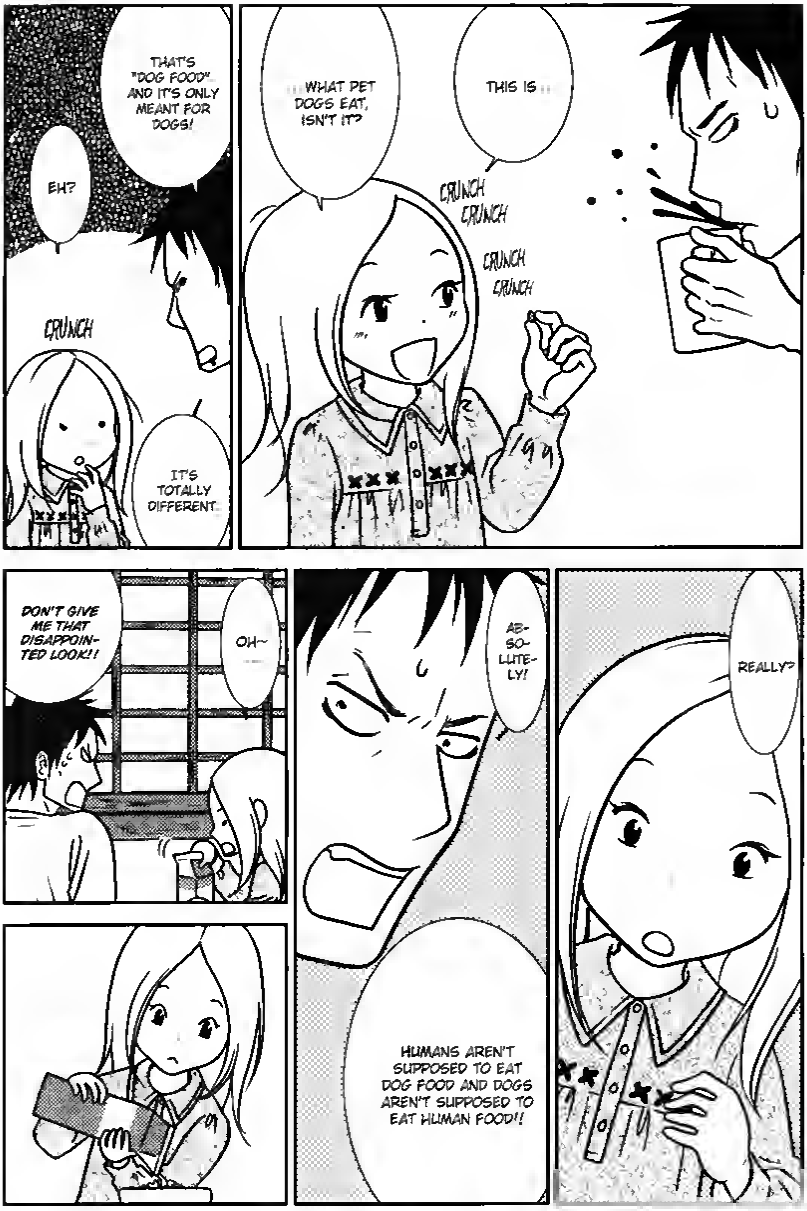
* This is presumably to make sure the child has the right textbooks and stationary for class, and nothing in excess. For instance, a physical education class would call for a set of sports attire

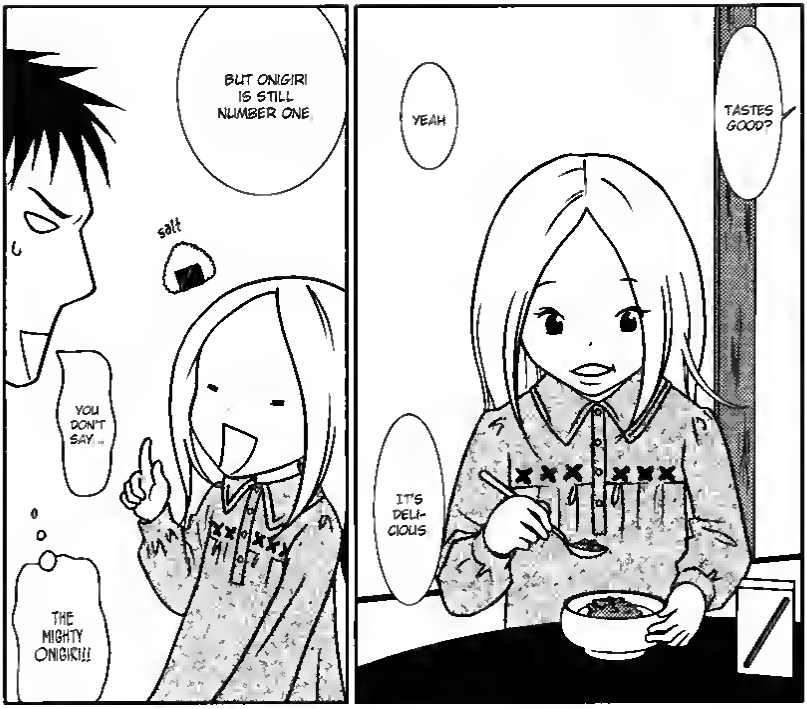

HER BACKPACK IS ALSO LIGHTER THAN WHAT I HAD BACK THEN APPARENTLY. THE KIDS NO LONGER GET AN EARFUL EITHER WHEN THEY DON'T FINISH THEIR LUNCH THESE DAYS
YET, WHY AM I SO WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS HER ATTENDING SCHOOL?
BESIDES, RIN IS QUITE A SENSIBLE CHILD...
WELL, I SUPPOSE ANYBODY WOULD IN THIS DAY AND AGE, BUT...
DAIKICHI, TIE THIS WHISTLE TO MY BACKPACK!

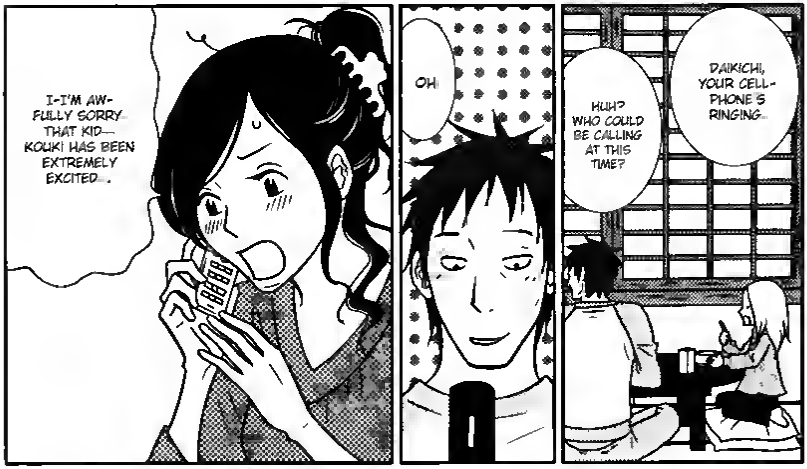
WILL I ACTUALLY GET USED TO THIS SOMEDAY?
HMM
WHY AM I FEELING THIS WAY?
WILL THE DAY COME WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO CALMLY SEND RIN OFF IN THE MORNINGS?

GAZI
DAIKICHI!
SCHOOL
AH!
RIN?

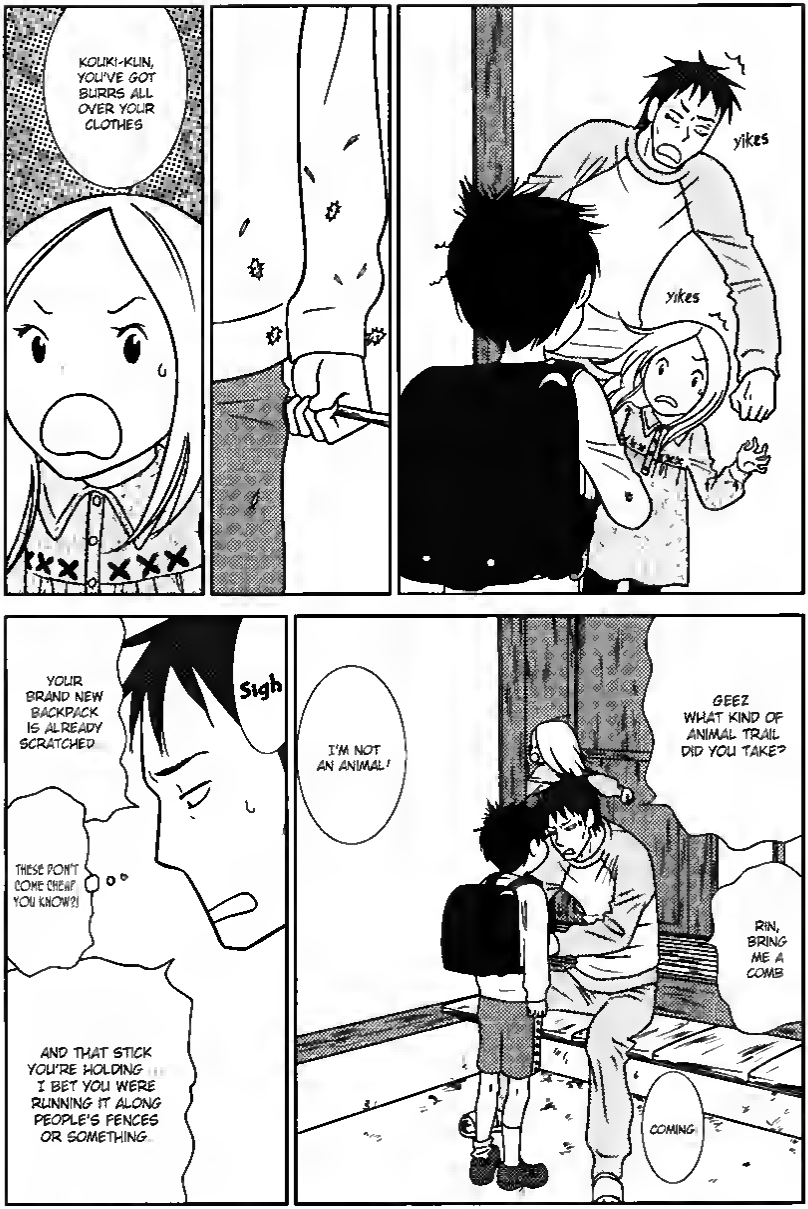
* Let's eat
Literally, it means "(I will) receive or accept (this)." Always said before tucking into a meal


THAT'S "DOG FOOD" AND IT'S ONLY MEANT FOR DOGS!
EH?
CRUNCH
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT
...WHAT PET DOGS EAT, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS...
CRUNCH CRUNCH
CRUNCH CRUNCH
DON'T GIVE ME THAT DISAPPOINTED LOOK!!
OH~
ABSOLUTELY!
HUMANS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO EAT DOG FOOD AND DOGS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO EAT HUMAN FOOD!!
REALLY?

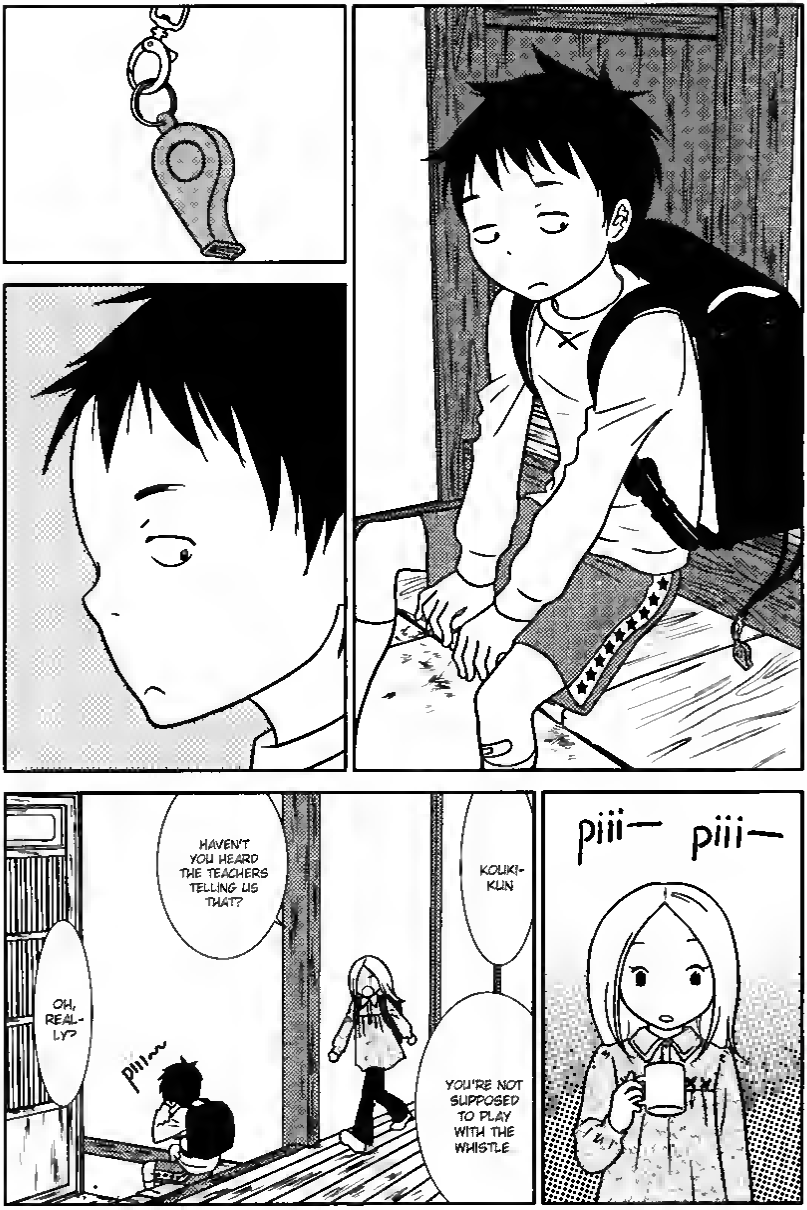

BUT ONIGIRI IS STILL NUMBER ONE
salt
YOU DON'T SAY...
THE MIGHTY ONIGIRI!!!
YEAH
TASTES GOOD?
IT'S DELI-CIOUS


I-I'M AW-FULLY SORRY... THAT KID— KOUKI HAS BEEN EXTREMELY EXCITED...
OH
HUH? WHO COULD BE CALLING AT THIS TIME?
DAIKICHI, YOUR CELL-PHONE'S RINGING...

HE HAS ALREADY DASHED OUT OF THE HOUSE!!
His hair is still in a mess...
R—INN-CHAN.
EH?!
AH NO, NOT AT ALL... OK., DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
R—INN-CHAN.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
KOUKI-KUN IS HERE!

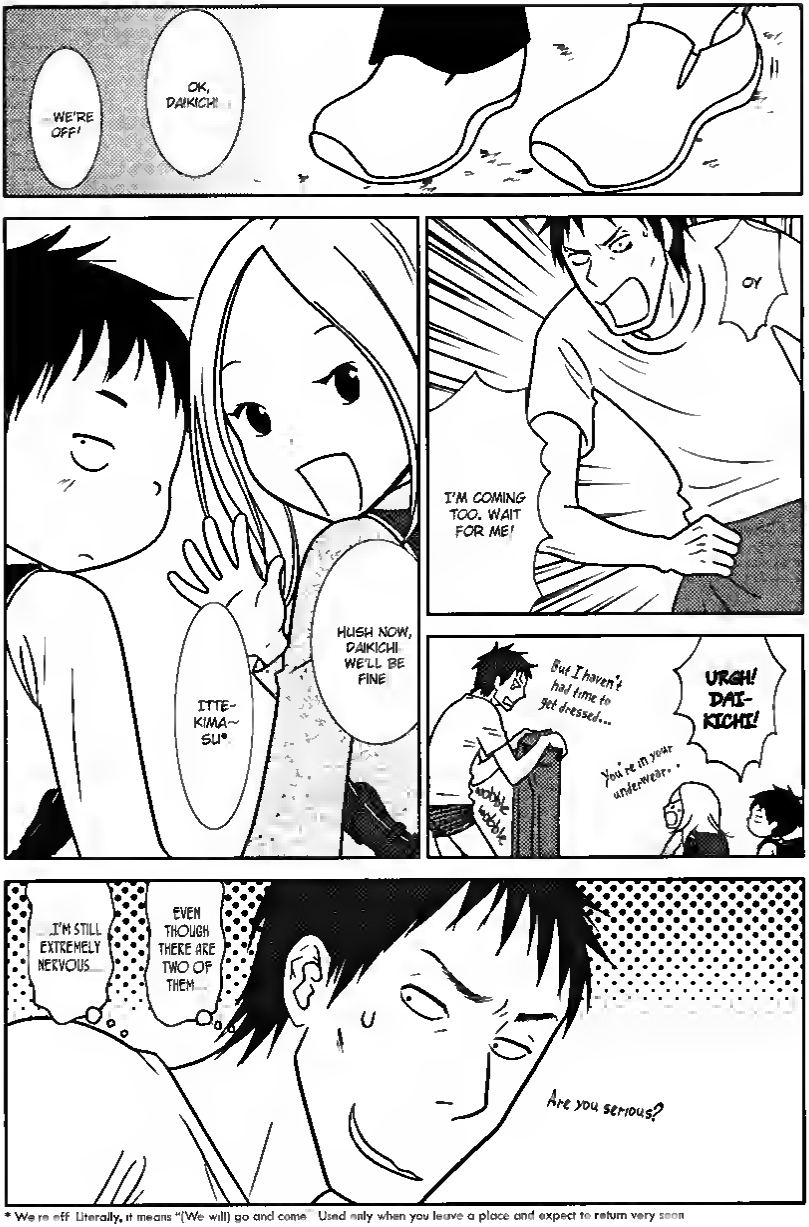

KOUKI-KUN, YOU'VE GOT BURRS ALL OVER YOUR CLOTHES
yikes
yikes
YOUR BRAND NEW BACKPACK IS ALREADY SCRATCHED
Sigh
THESE DON'T COME CHEAP YOU KNOW?!
AND THAT STICK YOU'RE HOLDING I BET YOU WERE RUNNING IT ALONG PEOPLE'S FENCES OR SOMETHING
I'M NOT AN ANIMAL!
GEEZ WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL TRAIL DID YOU TAKE?
RIN, BRING ME A COMB
COMING

OH, C'MON. IT'S SO OBVIOUS!!
SCRAPE SCRAPE
ACK! ARE YOU PSYCHIC?!
ESP
OKIE DOKIE
GO GET READY, RIN!!
DAIKICHI MUST HAVE DONE THE EXACT SAME THING IN THE PAST
BRUSH
BRUSH

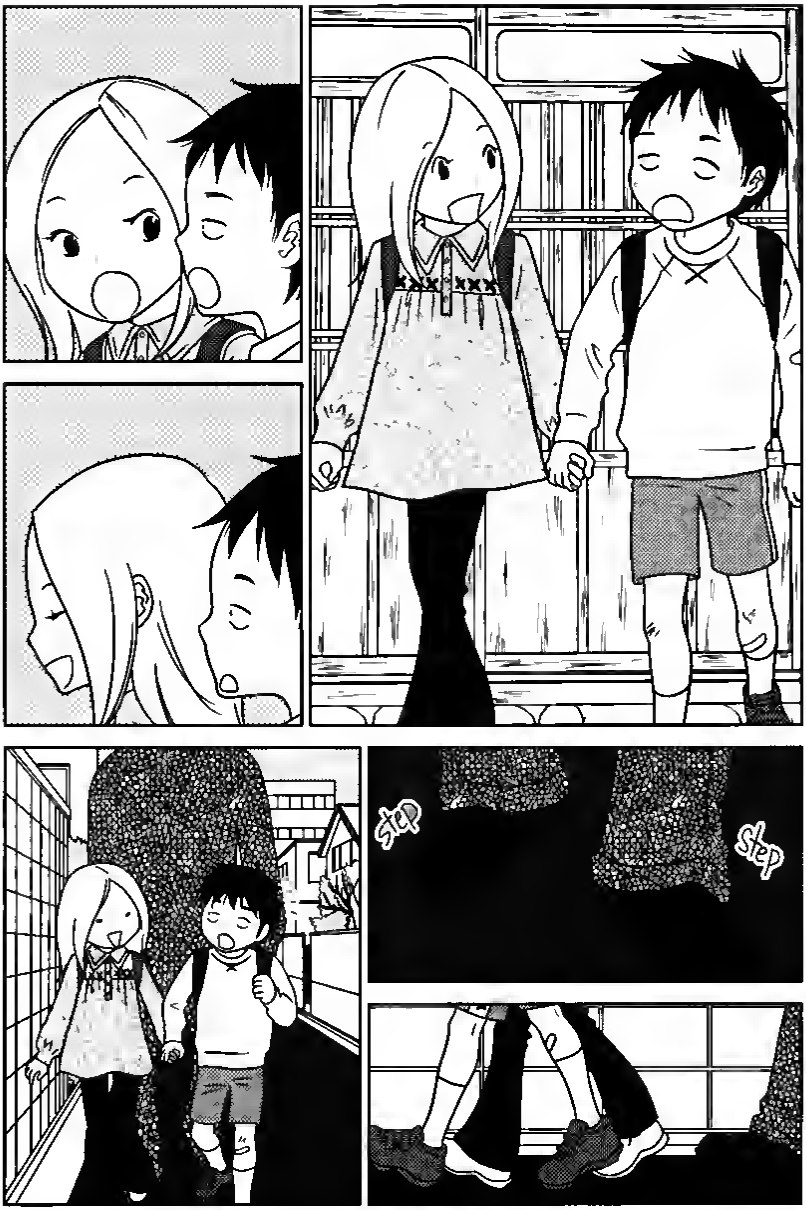

piii—
piii—
KOUKI-KUN
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PLAY WITH THE WHISTLE
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE TEACHERS TELLING US THAT?
OH, REAL-LY?
piii~

UHM...
REMEMBER THE BOY AND THE WOLF?
HUH?
WELL...
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THE BOY AND THE WOLF AGAIN?
YOU TELL KOUKI-KUN
WHAT NOW?
...DAIKICHI, DAIKICHI

SO, THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT
Sigh...
OH...
WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BLOW THE WHISTLE FOR NO REASON
BUT KOUKI-KUN...
SO, IF YOU BLOW IT ALL THE TIME, NOBODY WILL COME WHEN YOU REALLY NEED HELP
DROP
Piii— Piii—
WELL HERE'S THE THING...
YOU ONLY USE IT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY
OH, NO!
WE HAVE TO GET GOING!!
REALLY I'M COUNTING ON YOU...
AND IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH HOUSE, YOU RUN INSIDE, YOU GOT THAT? OR A SHOP OR SOMETHING
YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?
NOD NOD
BUT IF ANY-BODY SUSPICIOUS TALKS TO YOU, YOU BLOW IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, YOU HEAR?

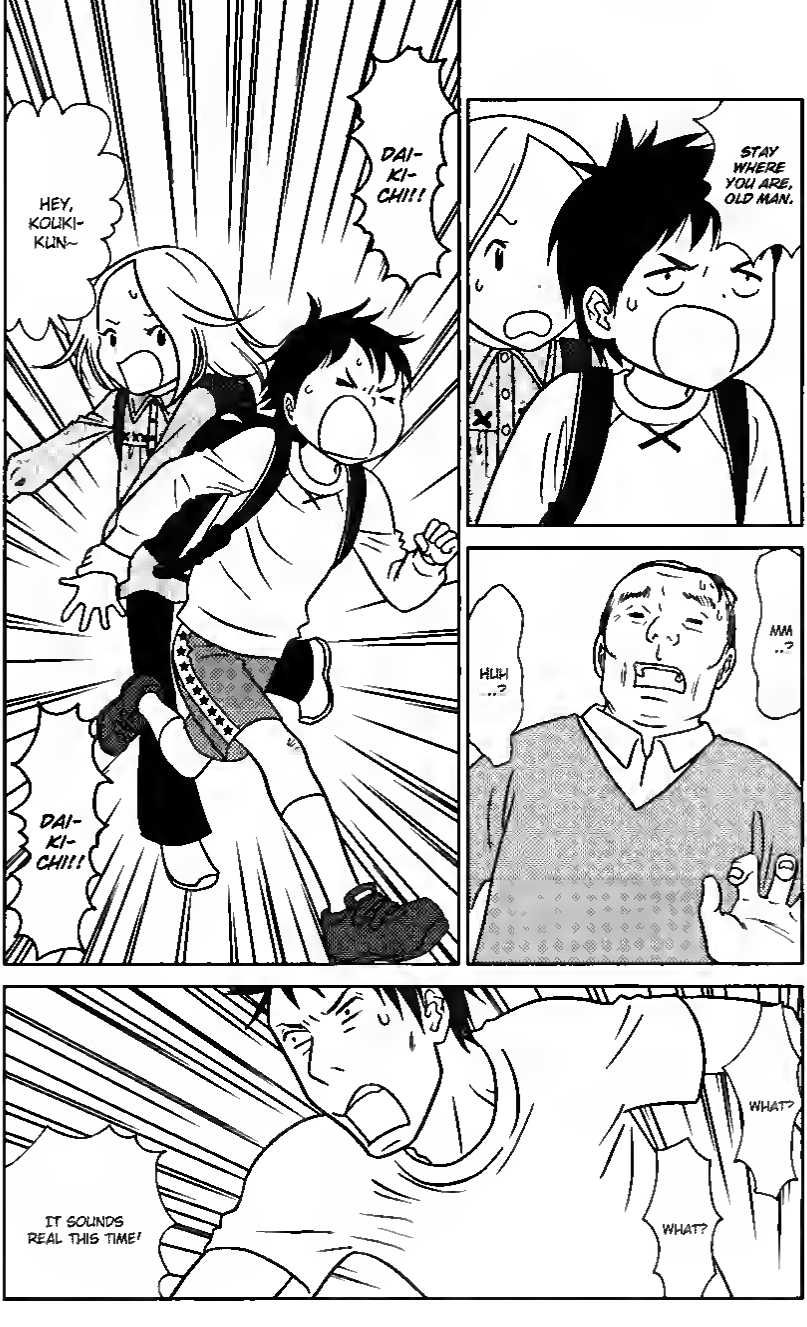


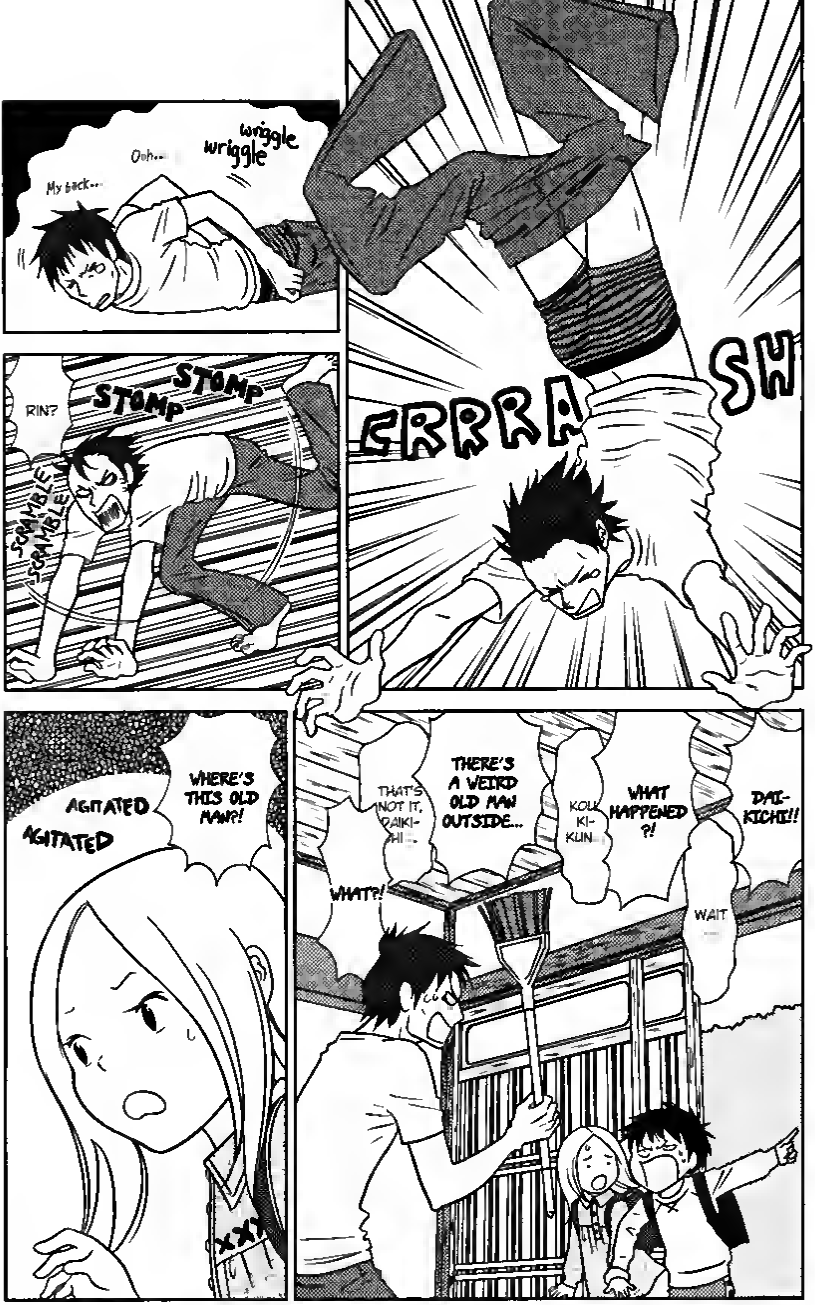
* We're off. Literally, it means "(We will) go and come." Used only when you leave a place and expect to return very soon.


step
step

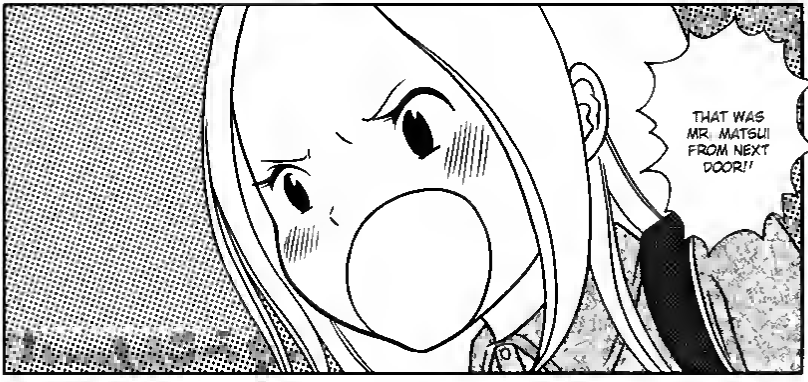
GOOD MORNING.
NICE BACKPACKS YOU'VE GOT THERE
...

IF ANYBODY SUSPICIOUS TALKS TO YOU,
YOU BLOW IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, YOU HEAR?
AND IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH HOUSE, YOU RUN INSIDE...
IF ANYBODY SUSPICIOUS TALKS TO YOU,
YOU BLOW IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, YOU HEAR?
!!
SMACK
PIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!!!!
GOOD MORNING, MISTER


HEY, KOUKI-KUN~
DAI-KI-CHI!!
DAI-KI-CHI!!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, OLD MAN.
HUH ...?
MM ...?
WHAT?
WHAT?
IT SOUNDS REAL THIS TIME!

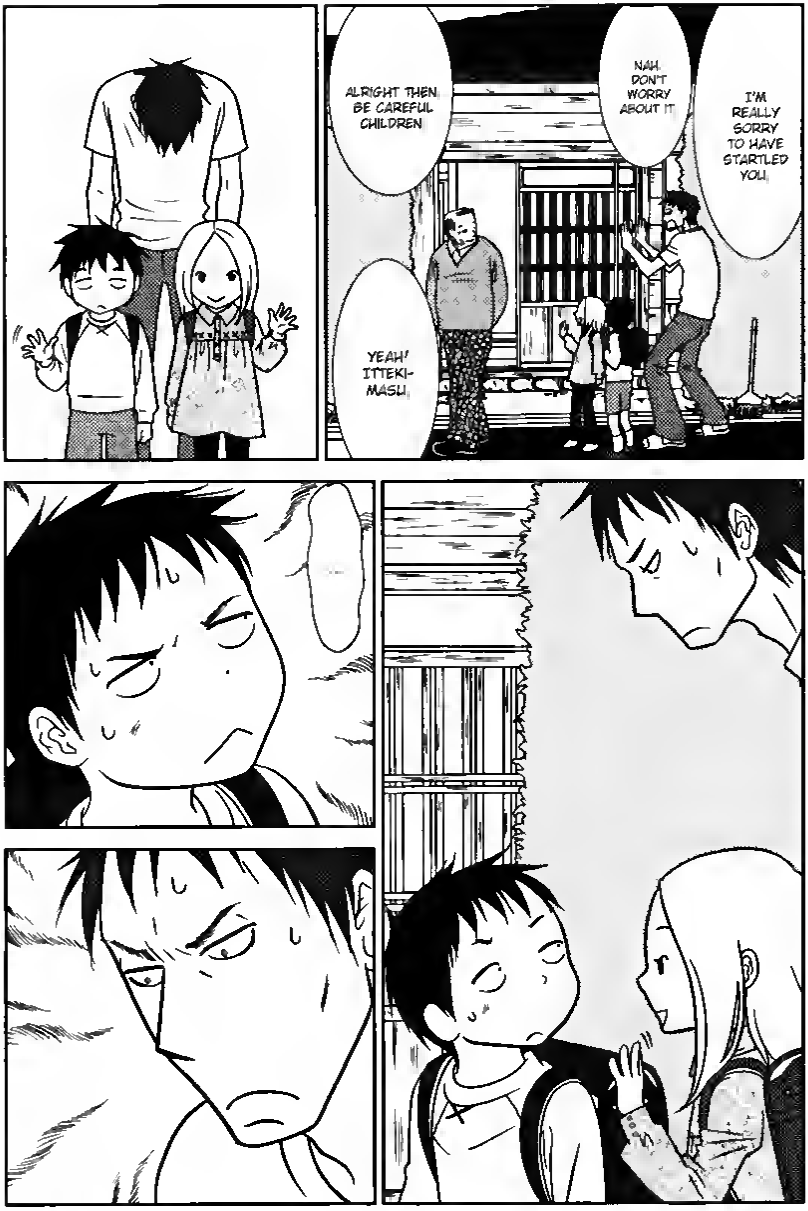

My back...
Ooh...
wriggle wriggle
ERRRA
SH
RIN?
STOMP
STOMP
SCRAMBLE SCRAMBLE
AGITATED
AGITATED
WHERE'S THIS OLD MAN?!
XXX
WHAT?!
THAT'S NOT IT, DAIKICHI...
THERE'S A WEIRD OLD MAN OUTSIDE...
KOU KI-KUN
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
DAI-KICHI!!
WAIT

LISTEN TO ME!
URRRGH! BOTH OF YOU!
YES ...

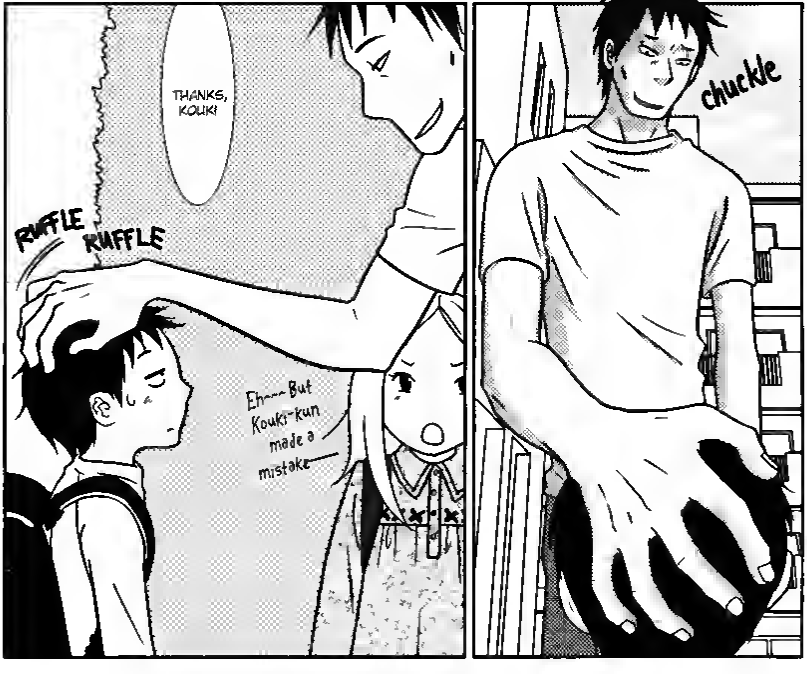

THAT WAS MR. MATSUI FROM NEXT DOOR!!

Rin-chan...
A weird old man...
YOU SHOULDN'T CALL HIM A WEIRD OLD MAN!
OY!
KOUKI, I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY!!
I AM...
SOR-RY

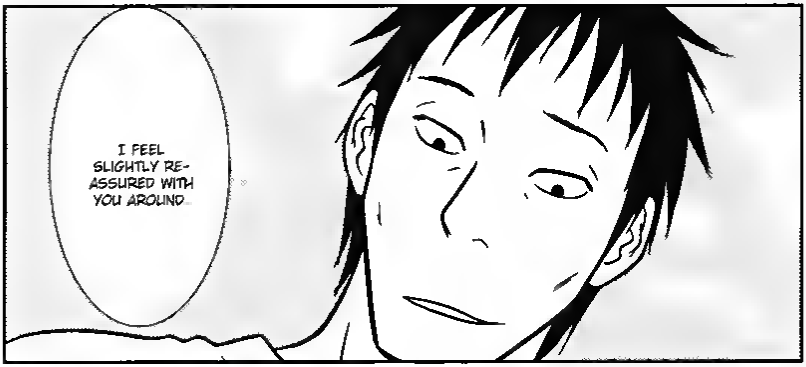
HEH HEH
I WAS INDEED TAKEN ABACK AT BEING MISTAKEN FOR A CROOK...
...BUT YOU'RE REALLY DEPEND-ABLE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M AW-FULLY SORRY.
A PRO-MISING YOUNG MAN INDEED


I'M REALLY SORRY TO HAVE STARTLED YOU.
NAH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
ALRIGHT THEN. BE CAREFUL CHILDREN.
YEAH! ITTEKI-MASU.

PLONK


THANKS, KOUKI
RUFFLE RUFFLE
Ehm—But Kouki-kun made a mistake—
chuckle

WHEN YOU RAN, YOU DIDN'T FORGET TO DRAG RIN ALONG WITH YOU


I FEEL SLIGHTLY RE-ASSURED WITH YOU AROUND...

YOU'RE STILL LITTLE!!
BUT OF COURSE!!
O-ONLY SLIGHT-LY?!
SLAP
I AM NOT LITTLE!!

to verify/tally (the) class schedule
» しかんわりあわせ (how Rin pictures it now)
- 時間割合せ (how Rin will picture it in future)

NOTICE THE FONT CHANGES?

It means Rin has added a new word to her vocabulary! *pats Rin on her back* Rin says these words in hiraganas, with a dot next to each character as if she's trying to hear how each syllable rolls off her tongue. Hiraganas are the most fundamental building blocks in Japanese words. Each hiragana constitutes a syllable in a word, and that's how Rin remembers new words! In this chapter, Rin learnt the words "verify (the) class schedule" and "whistle"

-hare

e whistle
» ふえ (how Rin pictures it now)
- 笛 (how Rin will picture it in future)

うさぎドロップ
usagi dorop
宇仁田ゆみ

LITTLE ONES...
YOU CAN DO IT.

YEAH! HE HAS LARGE FEET TOO!
DAIKICHI HAS REALLY BIG HANDS...
I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA CRUSH MY HEAD...

J-SIS PRESENTS

Usagi Drop ch. 14

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Translator: Hare.Kotoba

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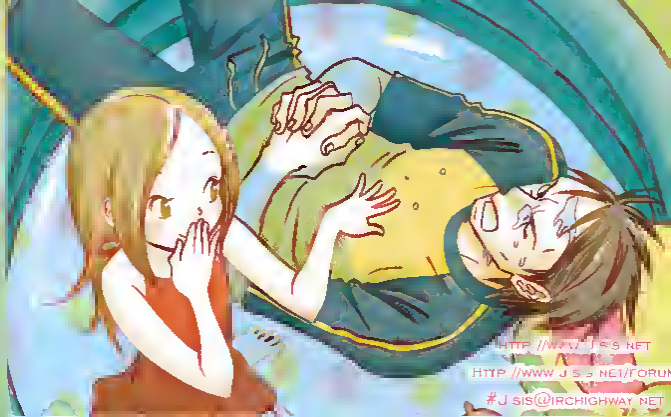

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episode.15

HOT! THE HEARTWARMING STORY OF RIN AND DAIKICHI ♥

大人気! りんと大吉のほのぼのライフ♥

うさぎドロップ

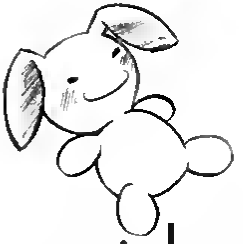
宇仁田ゆみ

新緑の季節——
リンドウもモクセイもヒワも
みんな、元気です!

The season of fresh verdure——
The bellflowers, the Osmanthus,
and the loquat tree...
...Are all going strong!

usagi drop

episode.15



usagi drop

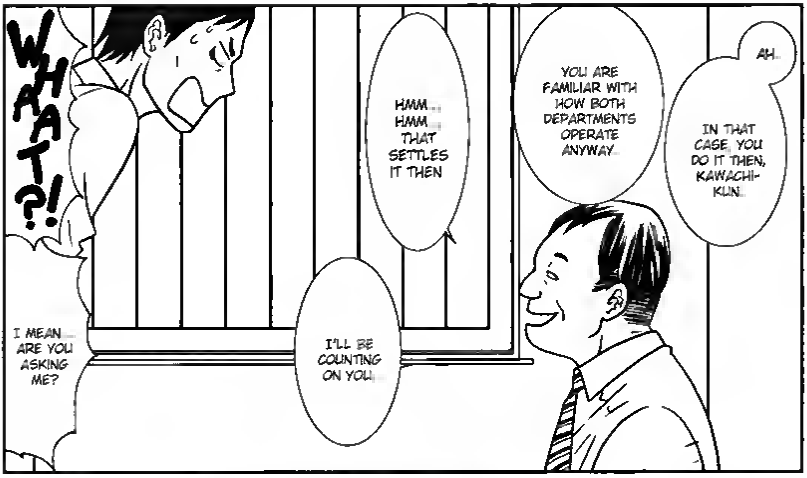
KAWAGHI-SAN! KAWAGHI-SAN!

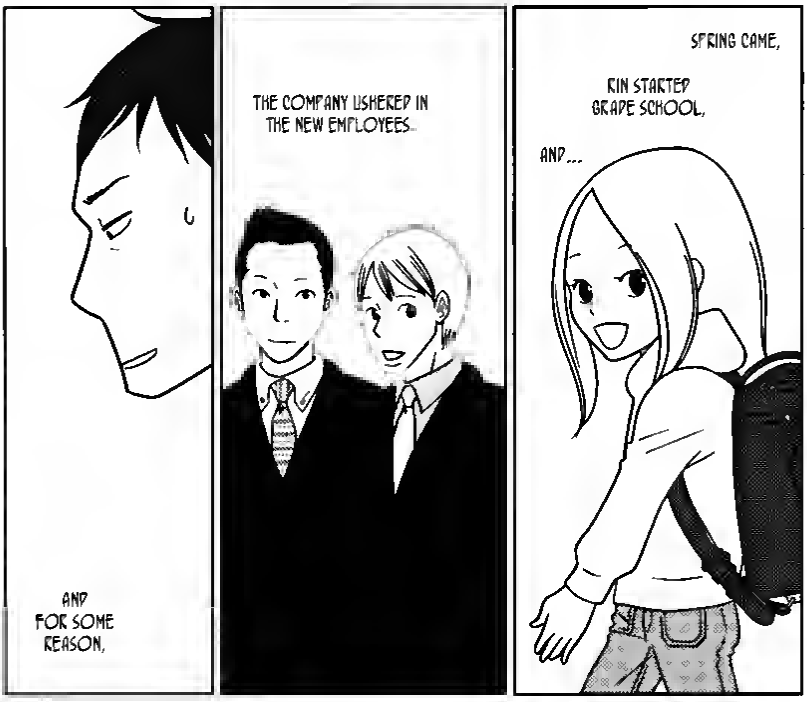
WHAT'S WRONG?
THOSE FELLAS HAVE DONE A CRAPPY JOB PACKING!!
IT'S THOSE NEW-COMERS FROM THE SALES FLOOR!!
CAN'T YOU PUH-LEEZE DO SOME-THING?
HMM?
AAH...
THEY'RE STILL UNDER-GOING TRAINING, THAT'S WHY
YOU MEAN THEY DON'T TEACH THIS STUFF DURING TRAINING OR SOMETHING?
W-E-ELL, THEY DO. STILL...
AND GET THIS, IN SOME CASES, THEY EVEN PUT TAPE ON THE MERCHANDISE!!
AND SOME OF THE BOXES ARE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WHILE OTHERS ARE ALMOST EMPTY...
THEY'VE RANDOMLY STUCK THE LABELS ON THE BOXES,
TH-THIS ONLY HOLDS US UP!!
WITH THE NUMBER OF PACKAGES INCREASING AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

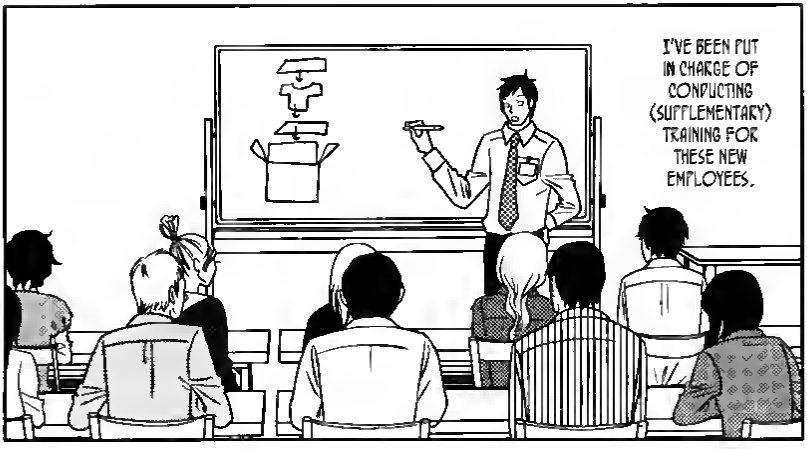
AND JUST BECAUSE WE'RE PART TIMERS, THEY ACT BLOODY ARROGANT AROUND US!!
THIS FELLA HERE HAS IT ESPECIALLY BAD!! THEY TREAT HIM LIKE A KID!!
THOSE PEOPLE THINK NOTHING OF LEAVING CARTS AND BOXES AND WHAT NOT LYING AROUND!
CAN'T YOU PLEASE BRING THIS TO THEIR ATTENTION OR SOMETHING?!
THEIR INSTRUCTORS MAY HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY TO DO A THOROUGH JOB...
MM MM
RAWR
Say, aren't those HEW species older than us?
You new @?# species!!
AAAAH.. I SEE, I SEE
EXCEPT FOR THAT GUY OVER THERE!!
THEY ACTUALLY STRIKE UP CONVERSATION WITH HIM... IN POLITE JAPANESE!!

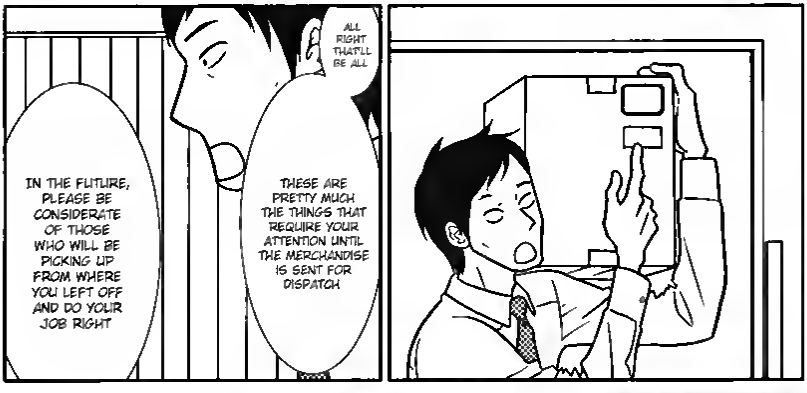
*On door
Department Manager,
Sales Department I

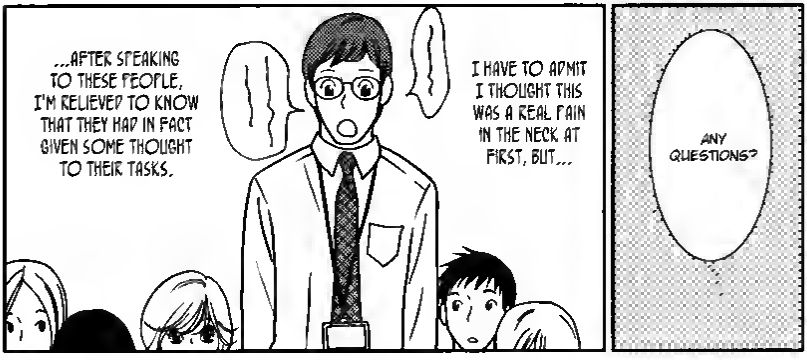
I SEE
THE PACKING, HUH? HMM...
MAY I PROPOSE YOU REASSEMBLE THE NEWCOMERS, AND GO THROUGH JUST THE PACKING PROCEDURE ONCE MORE WITH THEM?
PERHAPS, SOME OF THE TEAMS WEREN'T ABLE TO SPEND SUFFICIENT TIME IN THE FIRST LEVEL OF TRAINING
AAH... THAT'S VERY LIKELY INDEED... HMM...
MM MM...
I SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM, BUT THE THING ABOUT REASSEMBLING EVERYBODY IS...
IT'S THE END OF THE MONTH, SO IT'S PRETTY HECTIC EVERYWHERE...
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT...
...IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE IT'S THE END OF THE MONTH THAT I NEED EVERYBODY'S COOPERATION, OR MY TEAM AND I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COPE.
MMMM, THAT'S A PROBLEM INDEED... HMM...

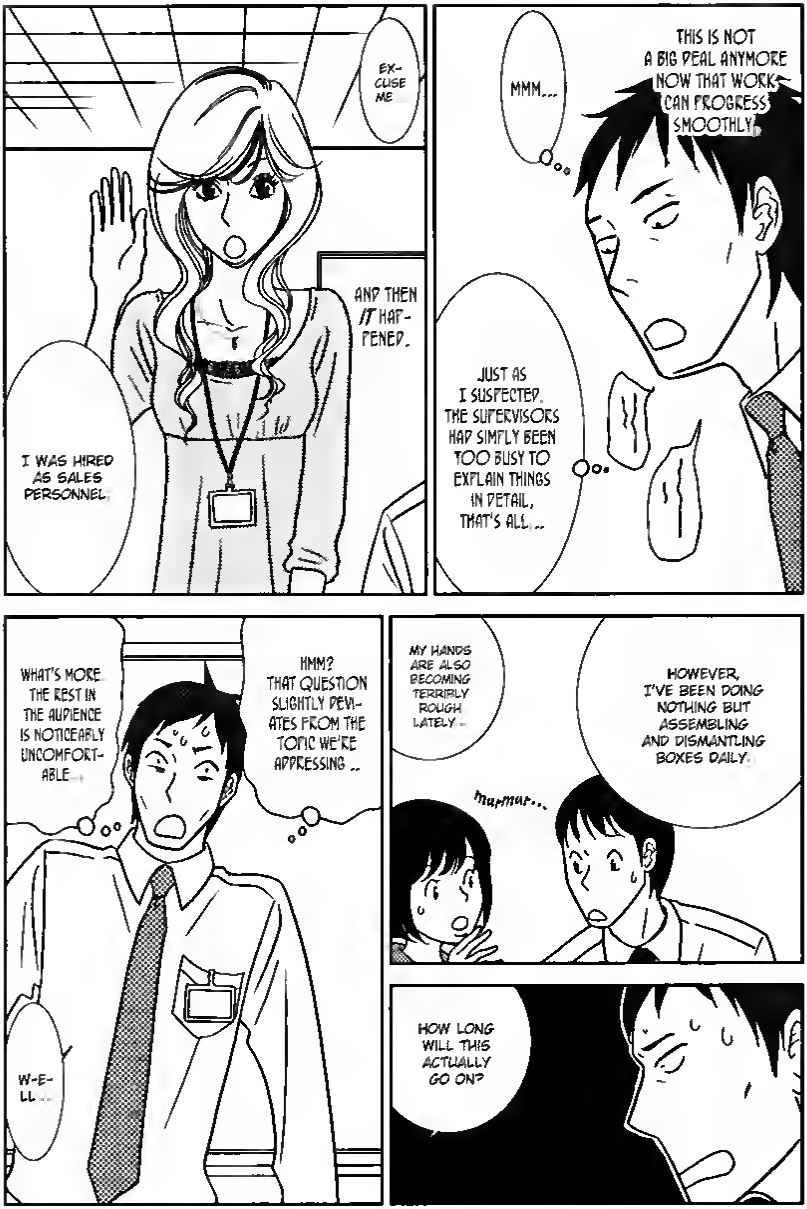

WHAT?!
I MEAN... ARE YOU ASKING ME?
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
HMM... HMM... THAT SETTLES IT THEN
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH HOW BOTH DEPARTMENTS OPERATE ANYWAY.
AH...
IN THAT CASE, YOU DO IT THEN, KAWACHI-KUN.


AND FOR SOME REASON,
THE COMPANY USHERED IN THE NEW EMPLOYEES.
SPRING CAME,
RIN STARTED GRADE SCHOOL,
AND...

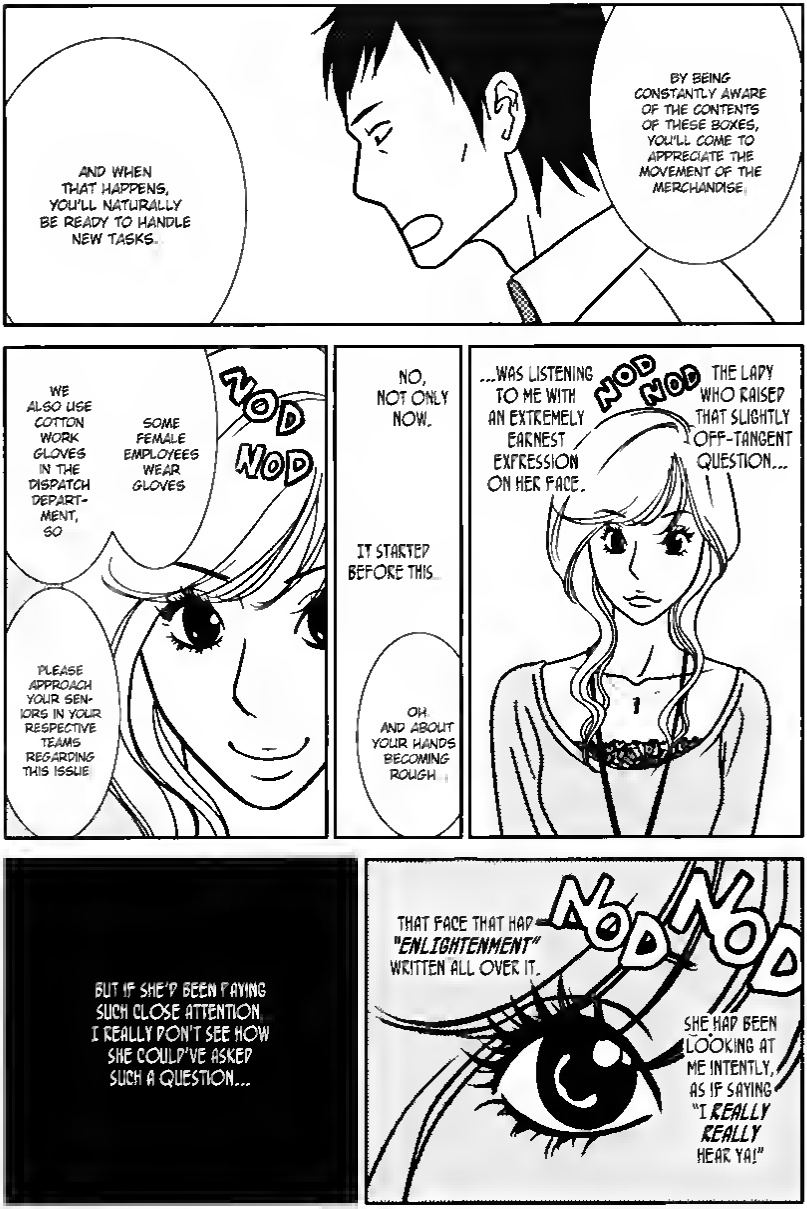

I'VE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF CONDUCTING (SUPPLEMENTARY) TRAINING FOR THESE NEW EMPLOYEES.

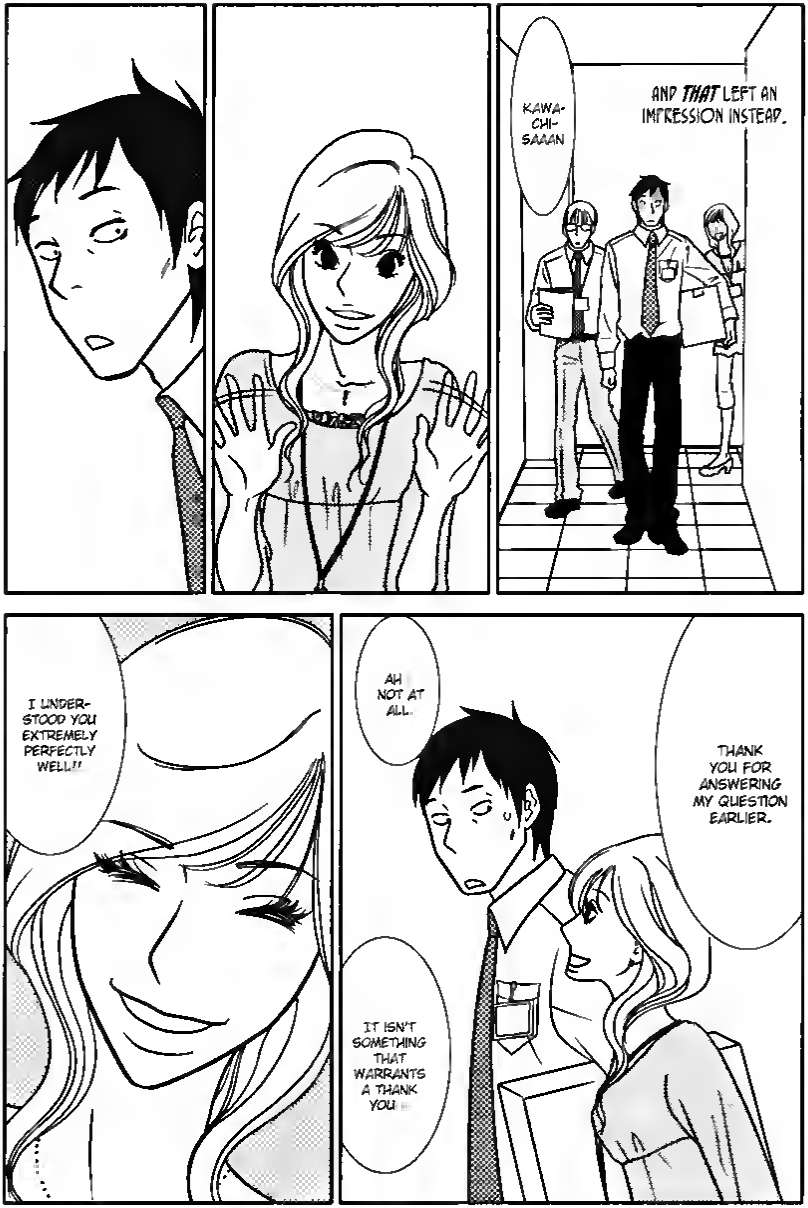

ALL RIGHT THAT'LL BE ALL
THESE ARE PRETTY MUCH THE THINGS THAT REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION UNTIL THE MERCHANDISE IS SENT FOR DISPATCH
IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THOSE WHO WILL BE PICKING UP FROM WHERE YOU LEFT OFF AND DO YOUR JOB RIGHT

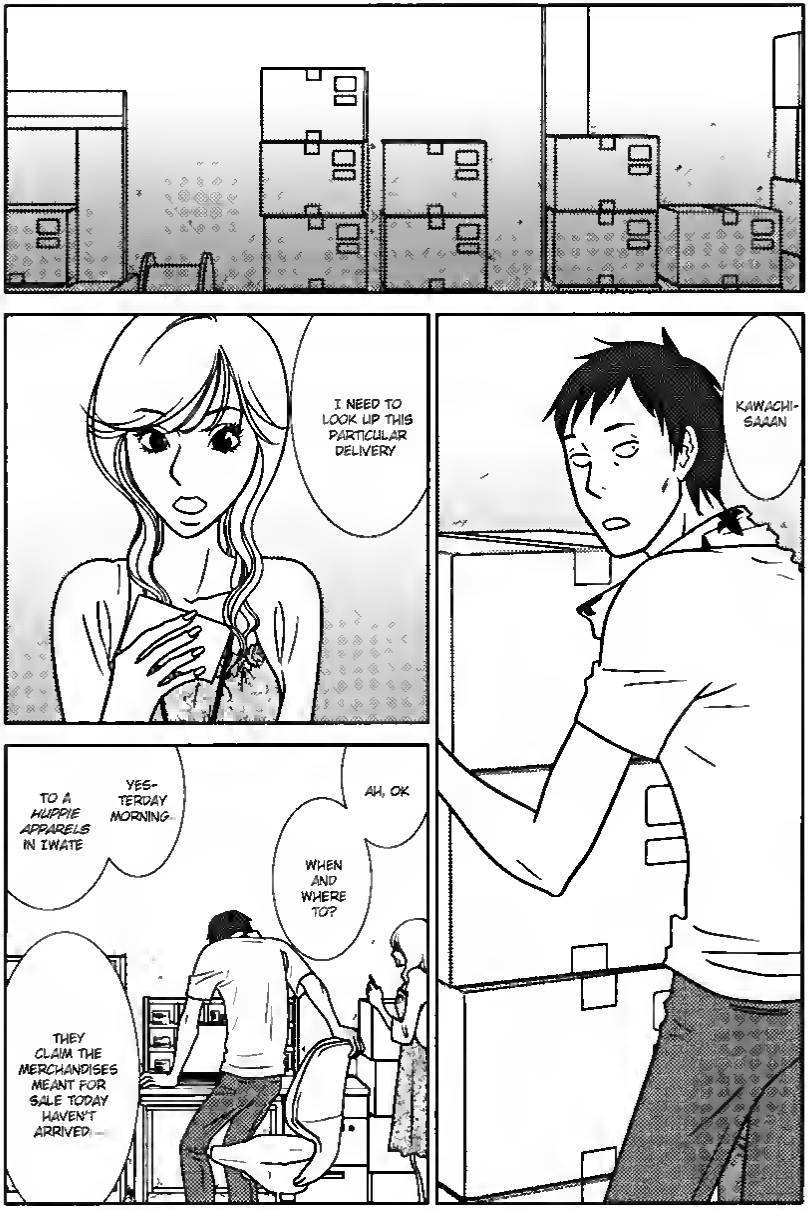

...AFTER SPEAKING TO THESE PEOPLE, I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT THEY HAD IN FACT GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO THEIR TASKS.
I HAVE TO ADMIT I THOUGHT THIS WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE NECK AT FIRST, BUT...
ANY QUESTIONS?

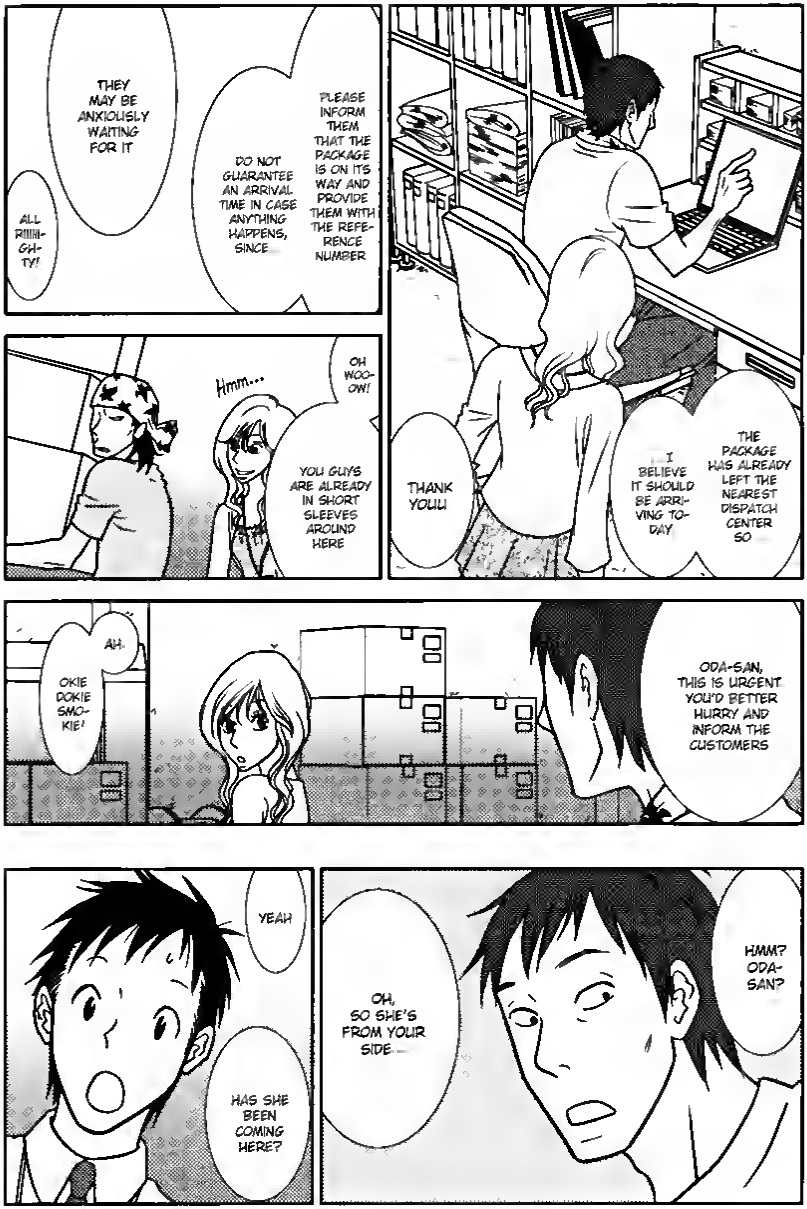

EX-CUSE ME
I WAS HIRED AS SALES PERSONNEL.
AND THEN IT HAP-PENED.
MMM...
THIS IS NOT A BIG DEAL ANYMORE NOW THAT WORK CAN PROGRESS SMOOTHLY.
JUST AS I SUSPECTED. THE SUPERVISORS HAD SIMPLY BEEN TOO BUSY TO EXPLAIN THINGS IN DETAIL, THAT'S ALL...
HMM? THAT QUESTION SLIGHTLY DEVI-ATES FROM THE TOPIC WE'RE APPRESSING...
WHAT'S MORE... THE REST IN THE AUDIENCE IS NOTICEABLY UNCOMFORT-ABLE...
W-E-LL...
MY HANDS ARE ALSO BECOMING TERRIBLY ROUGH LATELY...
HOWEVER, I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT ASSEMBLING AND DISMANTLING BOXES DAILY.
mumur...
HOW LONG WILL THIS ACTUALLY GO ON?

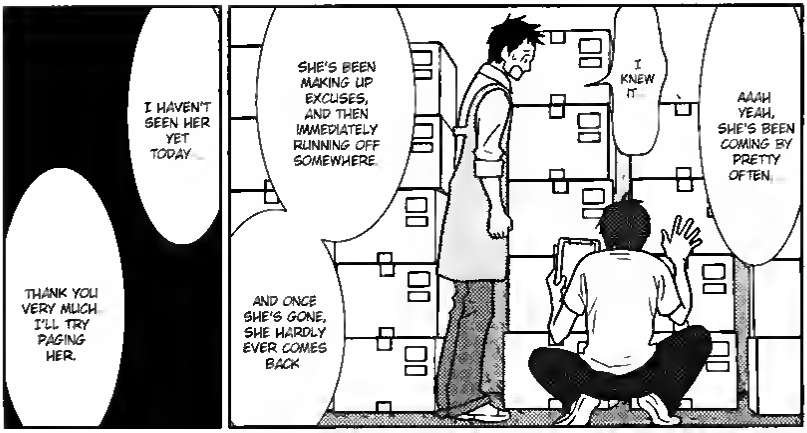
MM MM.
WELL, NO DOUBT IT CAN BE A MUNDANE TASK,
WHEN IT GETS HECTIC AROUND HERE, THE MANAGERS NOT ONLY PACK THESE BOXES, BUT CARRY THEM AS WELL.
AS IT STANDS, TASKS THAT INVOLVE HANDLING BOXES WILL NOT GO AWAY IN OUR COMPANY.
ALL OF THE BROWN CARDBOARD BOXES MAY LOOK THE SAME,
BUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT THEY CARRY CAN BE CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT.
SAMPLES FOR PHOTO SHOOTS, SAMPLES FOR MEETINGS...
DELIVERIES TO OUR CUSTOMERS, RETURNED MERCHANDISE FROM OUR CUSTOMERS, DELIVERIES FROM OUR MANUFACTURERS, MERCHANDISE RETURNED TO OUR MANUFACTURERS...
BUT IT IS NOT A MINDLESS TASK.

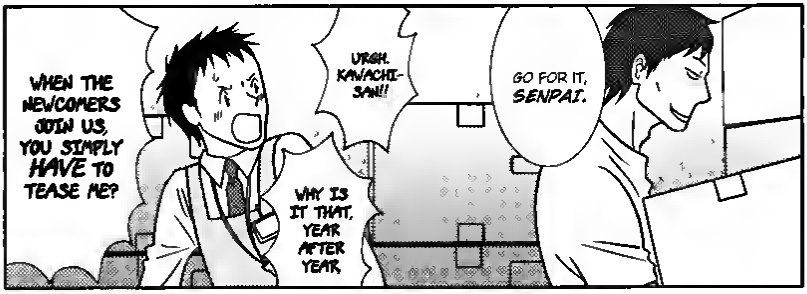

BY BEING CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF THESE BOXES, YOU'LL COME TO APPRECIATE THE MOVEMENT OF THE MERCHANDISE.
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL NATURALLY BE READY TO HANDLE NEW TASKS.
NOD NOD
WE ALSO USE COTTON WORK GLOVES IN THE DISPATCH DEPARTMENT, SO
SOME FEMALE EMPLOYEES WEAR GLOVES
PLEASE APPROACH YOUR SENIORS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE TEAMS REGARDING THIS ISSUE.
NO, NOT ONLY NOW.
IT STARTED BEFORE THIS.
OH, AND ABOUT YOUR HANDS BECOMING ROUGH.
...WAS LISTENING TO ME WITH AN EXTREMELY EARNEST EXPRESSION ON HER FACE.
NOD NOD
THE LADY WHO RAISED THAT SLIGHTLY OFF-TANGENT QUESTION...
BUT IF SHE'D BEEN PAYING SUCH CLOSE ATTENTION I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW SHE COULD'VE ASKED SUCH A QUESTION...
THAT FACE THAT HAD "ENLIGHTENMENT" WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.
NOD NOD
SHE HAD BEEN LOOKING AT ME INTENTLY, AS IF SAYING "I REALLY REALLY HEAR YA!"


AND THAT LEFT AN IMPRESSION INSTEAD.
KAWA-CHI-SAAAN
THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTION EARLIER.
AH NOT AT ALL.
IT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT WARRANTS A THANK YOU
I UNDER-STOOD YOU EXTREMELY PERFECTLY WELL!!


I NEED TO LOOK UP THIS PARTICULAR DELIVERY
KAWACHI-SAAAN
AH, OK
WHEN AND WHERE TO?
YES-TERDAY MORNING
TO A HUPPIE APPARELS IN IWATE
THEY CLAIM THE MERCHANDISES MEANT FOR SALE TODAY HAVEN'T ARRIVED


ALL RIIIH-GH-TY!
THEY MAY BE ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR IT
DO NOT GUARANTEE AN ARRIVAL TIME IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS, SINCE...
PLEASE INFORM THEM THAT THE PACKAGE IS ON ITS WAY AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THE REFERENCE NUMBER
THANK YOU!!
I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE ARRIVING TODAY
THE PACKAGE HAS ALREADY LEFT THE NEAREST DISPATCH CENTER SO...
Hmm...
OH WOO-OW!
YOU GUYS ARE ALREADY IN SHORT SLEEVES AROUND HERE
AH.
OKIE DOKIE SMO-KIE!
ODA-SAN, THIS IS URGENT. YOU'D BETTER HURRY AND INFORM THE CUSTOMERS
YEAH
HAS SHE BEEN COMING HERE?
OH, SO SHE'S FROM YOUR SIDE...
HMM? ODA-SAN?


I HAVEN'T SEEN HER YET TODAY...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'LL TRY PAGING HER.
SHE'S BEEN MAKING UP EXCUSES, AND THEN IMMEDIATELY RUNNING OFF SOMEWHERE.
AND ONCE SHE'S GONE, SHE HARDLY EVER COMES BACK
I KNEW IT...
AAAH YEAH, SHE'S BEEN COMING BY PRETTY OFTEN.

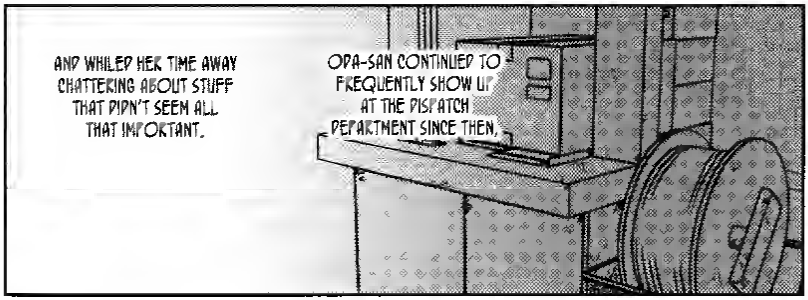

WHEN THE NEWCOMERS JOIN US, YOU SIMPLY HAVE TO TEASE ME?
URGH. KAWACHI-SAN!!
WHY IS IT THAT, YEAR AFTER YEAR,
GO FOR IT, SENPAI.

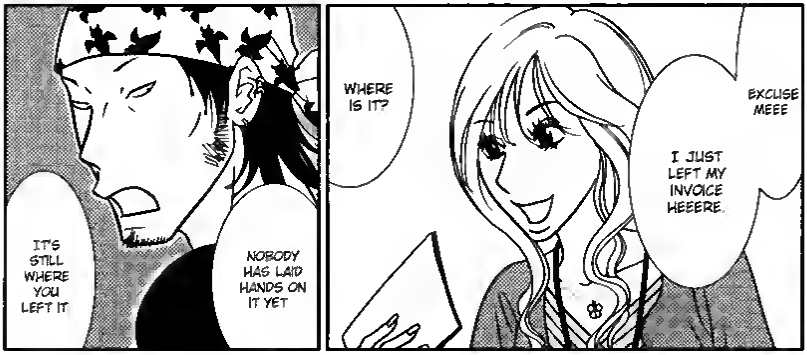
THIS MAY NOT BE RIGHT COMING FROM ME BUT
Sheesh.
SHIRT
WELL...
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS GO BY, THE THOUGHT OF YOU BEING A SENPAI STILL AMUSES ME.

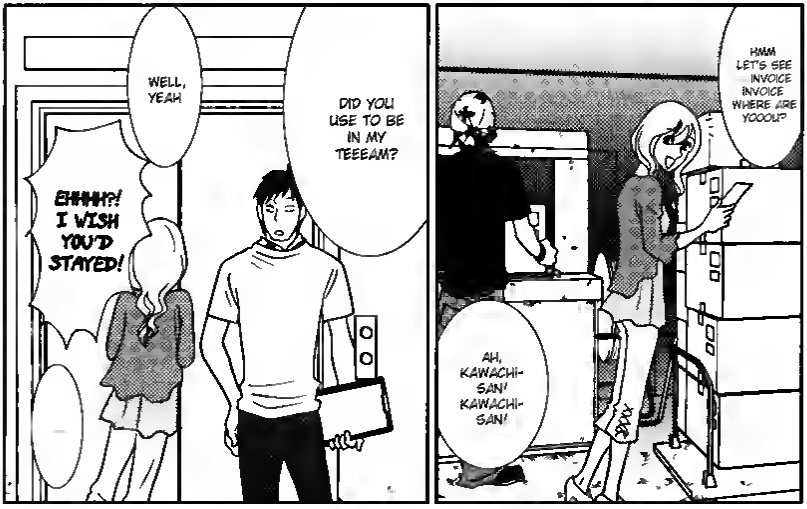
* 片腕 kateude = right hand man (figuratively), or one arm (literally)
Daiki-chi is telling him to be a reliable aide to Hidaka-san.

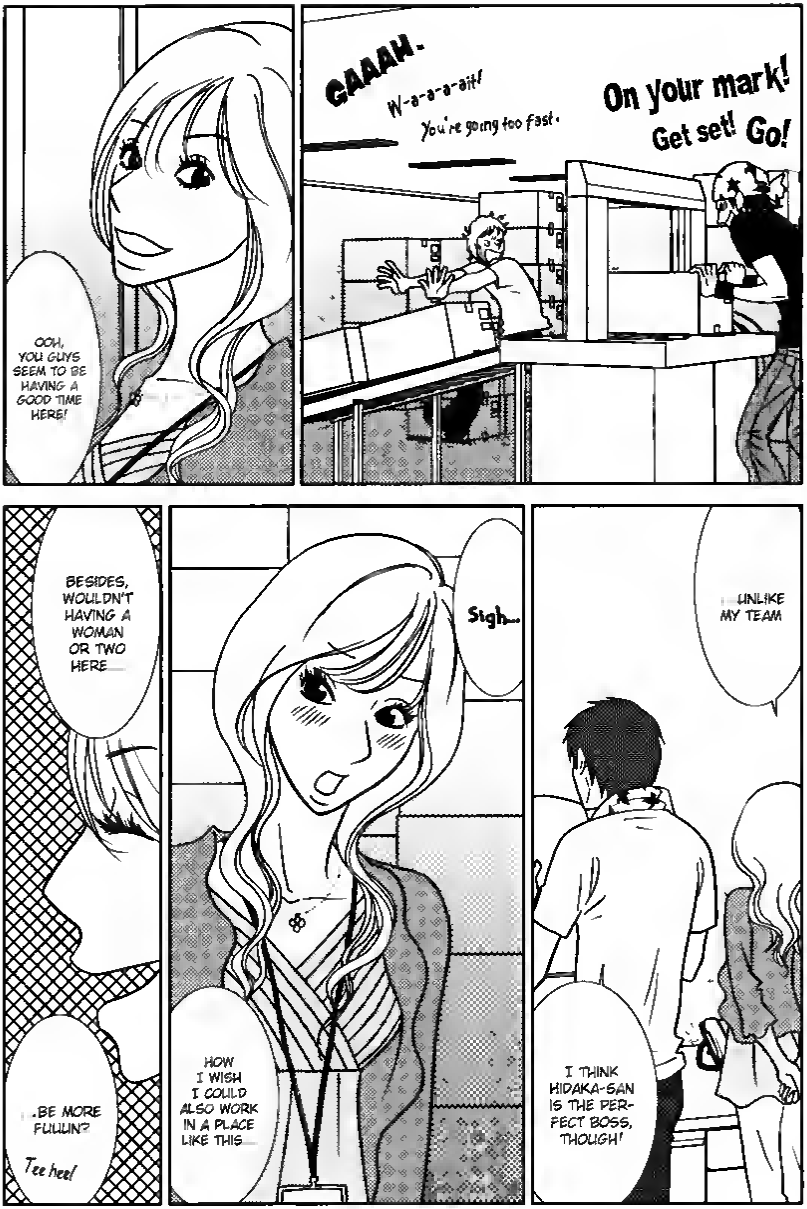
...MAKE SURE YOU LEND HIDAKA-SAN A STRONG HAND*, OK?
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
I'll lend him an arm that can rival the Psycho-gun*!!
I KNOW THAT ALREADY!!

* The Psycho-gun is a laser gun concealed under the left prosthetic arm of Cobra, a character from "Space Adventure Cobra", the brainchild of mangaka Buichi Terasawa. It is fast, accurate, requires no line of sight, has no trigger, fires at will, and draws ammunition from the wearer's mental strength.

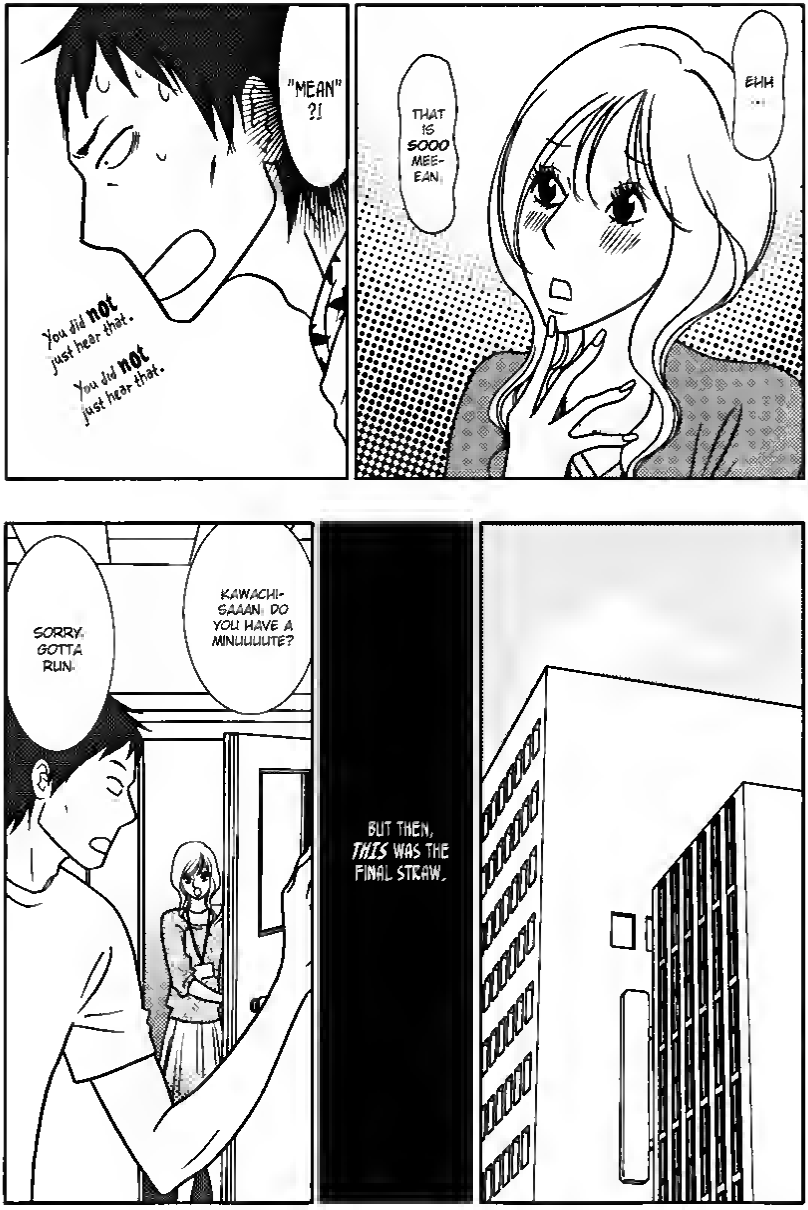

AND WHILED HER TIME AWAY CHATTERING ABOUT STUFF THAT DIDN'T SEEM ALL THAT IMFORTANT.
ODA-SAN CONTINUED TO FREQUENTLY SHOW UP AT THE DISPATCH DEPARTMENT SINCE THEN.


IT'S STILL WHERE YOU LEFT IT
NOBODY HAS LAID HANDS ON IT YET
WHERE IS IT?
EXCUSE MEEE
I JUST LEFT MY INVOICE HEEERE.

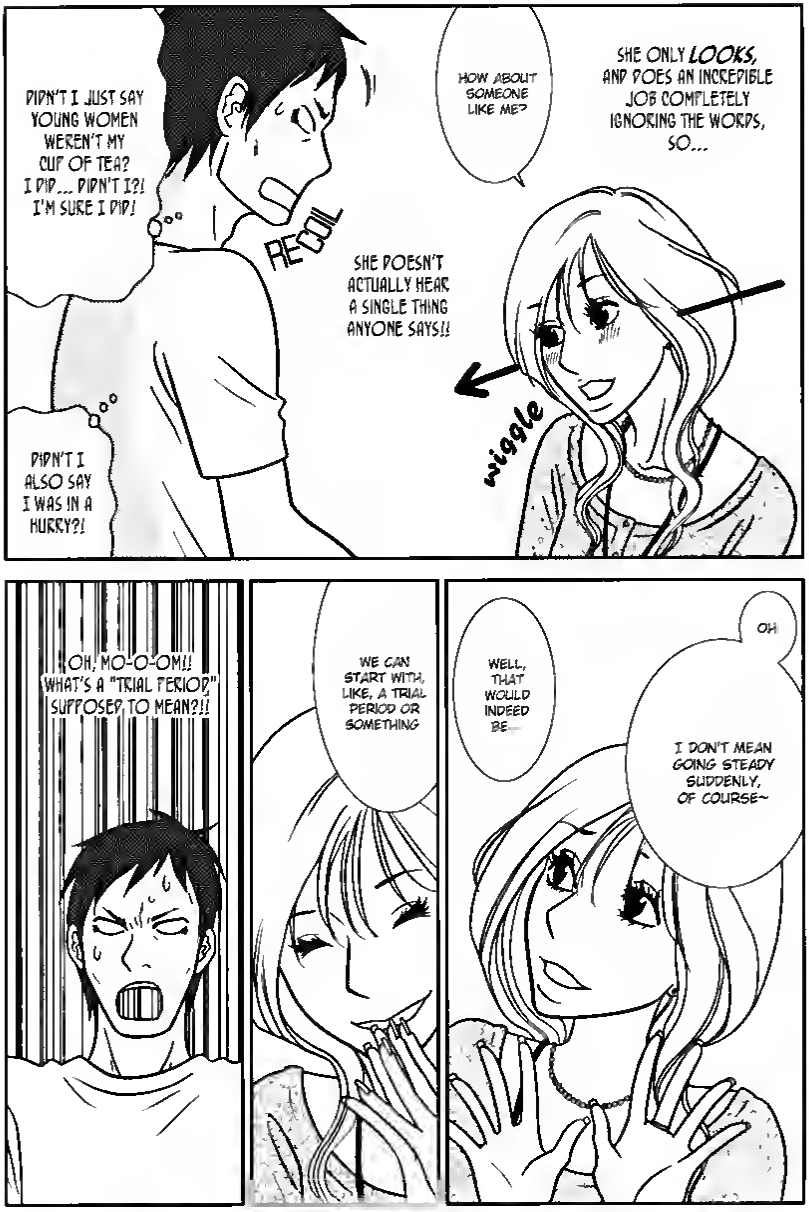

WELL, YEAH
DID YOU USE TO BE IN MY TEEEAM?
EHHH?! I WISH YOU'D STAYED!
HMM LET'S SEE INVOICE INVOICE WHERE ARE YOOOU?
AH, KAWACHI-SAN! KAWACHI-SAN!


OOH, YOU GUYS SEEM TO BE HAVING A GOOD TIME HERE!
GAAAH.
W-a-a-a-ait! You're going too fast.
On your mark! Get set! Go!
BESIDES, WOULDN'T HAVING A WOMAN OR TWO HERE...
...BE MORE FULLIN?
Tee hee!
Sigh...
HOW I WISH I COULD ALSO WORK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
...UNLIKE MY TEAM
I THINK HIDAKA-SAN IS THE PERFECT BOSS, THOUGH!

A WOMAN DOING THIS KIND OF WORK? NO WAY!
OH, HELLOOO! YOU AREN'T SAYING YOU ONLY HIRE MEN OR SOMETHING NOW, ARE YOU?!
DON'T BE STUPID!
IF THE WOMAN HAS ARMS AS STRONG AS OURS,
AND DOESN'T MIND ROUGH HANDS, I'D SAY "WELCOME ON BOARD".
SPEAKING OF WHICH— THE SALES FLOOR IS BUSY. YOU KNOW? SHOULDN'T YOU RETURN TO IT?
We're also busy here!!
PLEEEEE

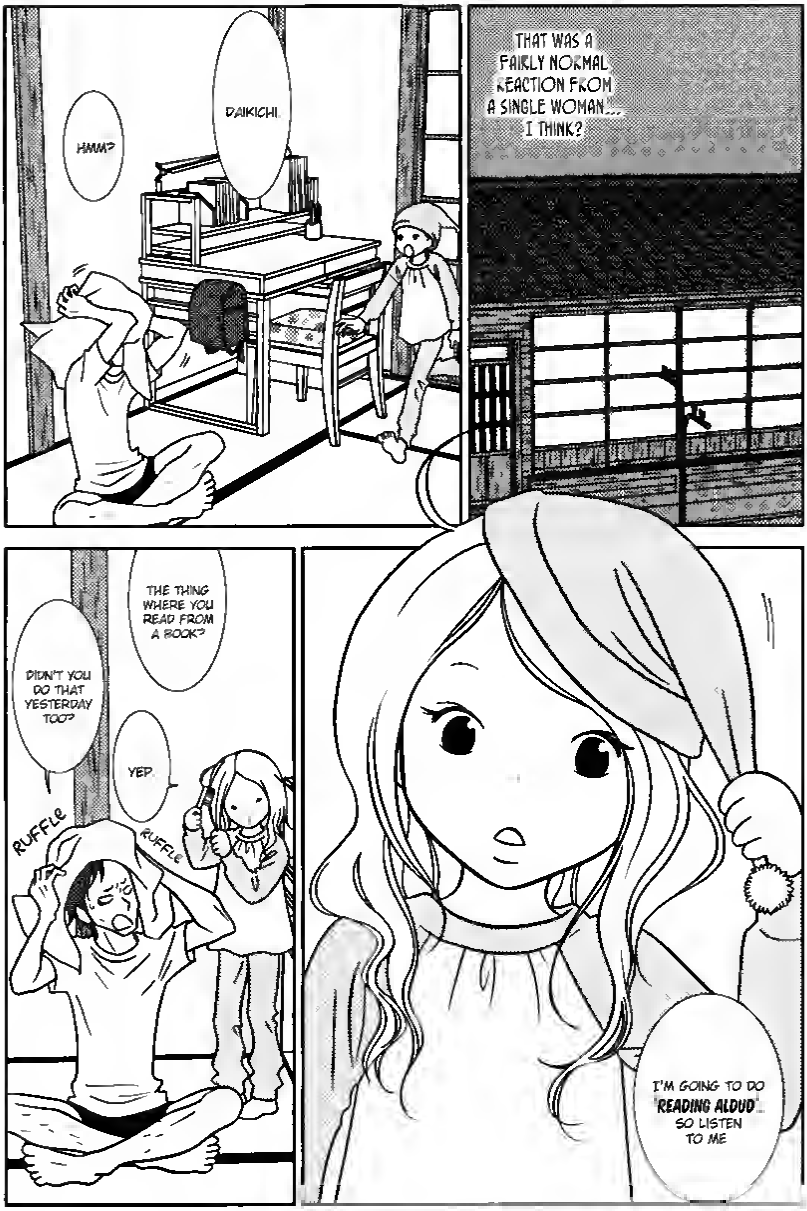

"MEAN" ?!
You did not just hear that.
You did not just hear that.
EHH...
THAT IS SOOO MEE-EAN.
SORRY, GOTTA RUN.
KAWACHI-SAAAN, DO YOU HAVE A MINUUUUTE?
BUT THEN, THIS WAS THE FINAL STRAW.

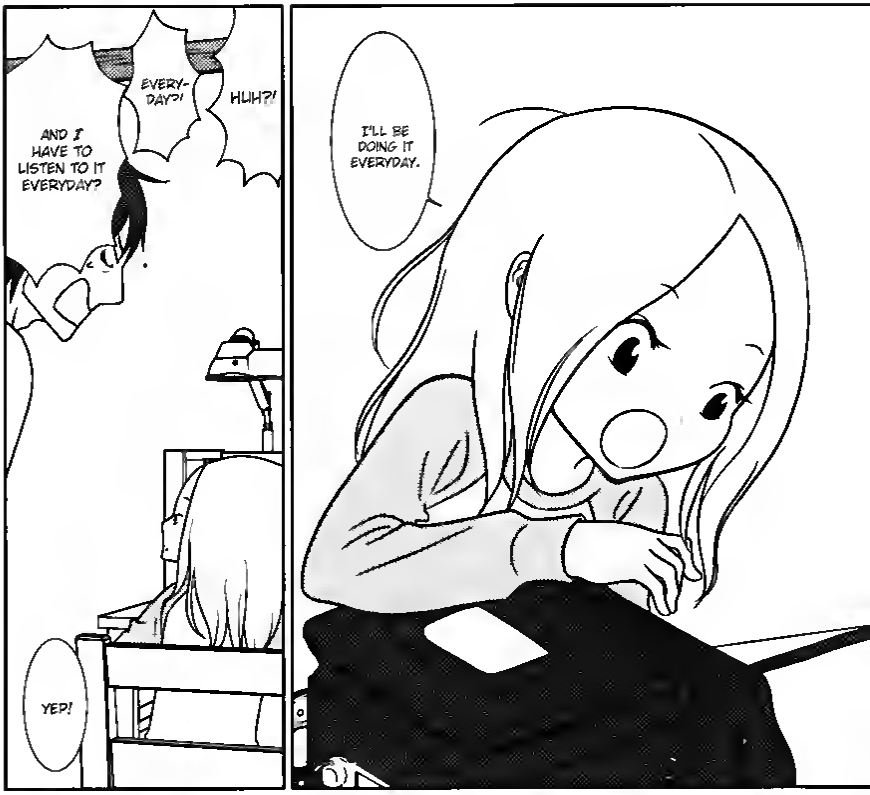
YOUNG WOMEN AREN'T MY CUP OF TEA.
WHY WOULD SHE BE ASKING ME THIS...?
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT DATING, YOU KNOW? WHAT'S YOUR MINIMUM AGE?
OH, BY THE WAY, KAWACHI-SAN? ABOUT HOW MANY YEARS YOUNGER IS OK FOR YOU?
I HAVE SOME THINGS GOING ON I CAN'T
AH, ALL RIGHT SOME OTHER TIME THEN, YEAH~?
YEAH?
KAWACHI-SAN, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME OUT TO DINNER ONCE IN A WHILE, HUUUH?
SORRY I'M IN A HURRY.
THIS LADY LOOKS YOU STRAIGHT IN THE EYE WHEN SHE LISTENS TO YOU, BUT...
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.
KAWA-CHI-SAN, YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, DO YOU?
AND YOU AREN'T WEARING A RING...
YEAH
HMM. I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND...
HEY KAWACHI-SAAAN DO YOU ALWAYS GO HOME THIS EAAARLY?
YEAH... KIND OF...

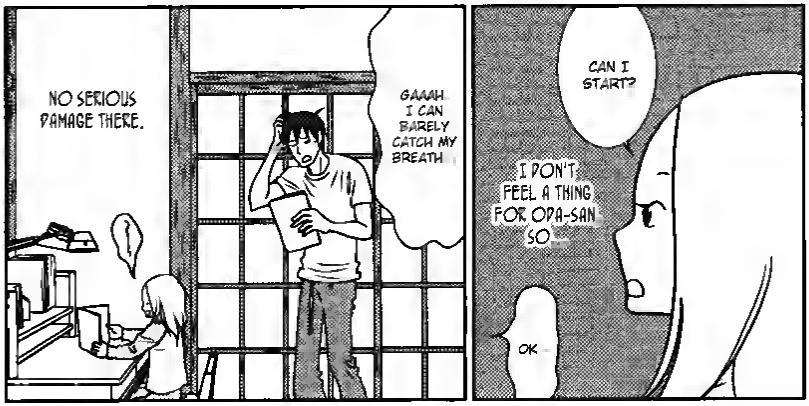

SHE ONLY LOOKS, AND DOES AN INCREDIBLE JOB COMPLETELY IGNORING THE WORDS, SO...
HOW ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE ME?
DIDN'T I JUST SAY YOUNG WOMEN WEREN'T MY CUP OF TEA? I DID... DIDN'T I?! I'M SURE I DID!
RECOIL
SHE DOESN'T ACTUALLY HEAR A SINGLE THING ANYONE SAYS!!
wiggle
DIDN'T I ALSO SAY I WAS IN A HURRY?!
OH!
I DON'T MEAN GOING STEADY SUDDENLY, OF COURSE~
WELL, THAT WOULD INDEED BE...
WE CAN START WITH, LIKE, A TRIAL PERIOD OR SOMETHING
OH, MO-O-OM!! WHAT'S A "TRIAL PERIOD" SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!!

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
FOR-GIVE ME, RIN!!
I'M GONNA USE YOU AS AN EXCUSE, KIPPO!!!!
AT THIS POINT, THE MAN INSIDE ME IS TELLING ME "THIS WOMAN IS TROUBLE!!"
TIM BER RRR !!
COME TO THINK OF IT,... ME? POPULAR WITH A YOUNG WOMAN? THERE MUST DEFINITELY BE A CATCH HERE! NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT!
OH, MAN. THIS KIND OF YOUNG WOMAN WHO DOESN'T COMPREHEND WHAT I SAY IS NO GOOD!
D-DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE SINGLE?!
I NEVER GOT MARRIED. BUT I HAVE A FAMILY.
I REALLY GOTTA BE GOING NOW OR...
SHE'S ONLY A FIRST GRADER
HUH?!
UHM... I HAVE A KID AT HOME

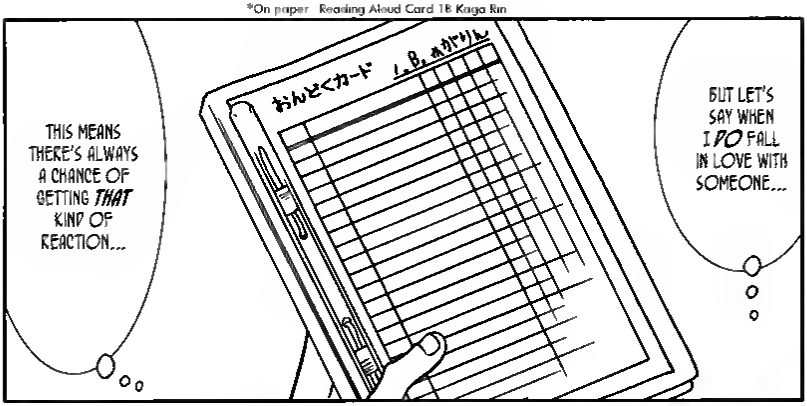
I'M SORRY!
HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT? FORGET IT.
AH...
HUH?
"FOR-GET IT"?
... EUH, O-KA-A-AY...
STUNNED

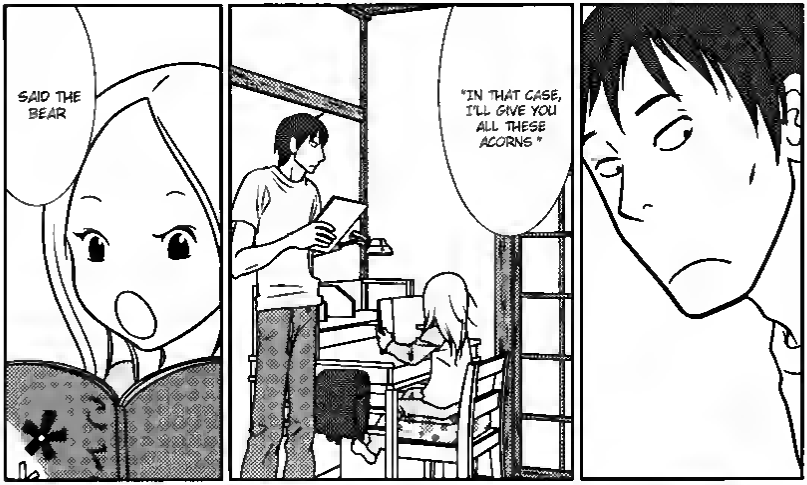

DAIKICHI
HMM?
THAT WAS A FAIRLY NORMAL REACTION FROM A SINGLE WOMAN... I THINK?
THE THING WHERE YOU READ FROM A BOOK?
DIDN'T YOU DO THAT YESTERDAY TOO?
YEP.
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
I'M GOING TO DO "READING ALOUD"... SO LISTEN TO ME


EVERY-DAY?!
HUH?!
AND I HAVE TO LISTEN TO IT EVERYDAY?
YEP!
I'LL BE DOING IT EVERYDAY.


NO SERIOUS DAMAGE THERE.
GAAAH I CAN BARELY CATCH MY BREATH
CAN I START?
I DON'T FEEL A THING FOR OBA-SAN SO...
OK

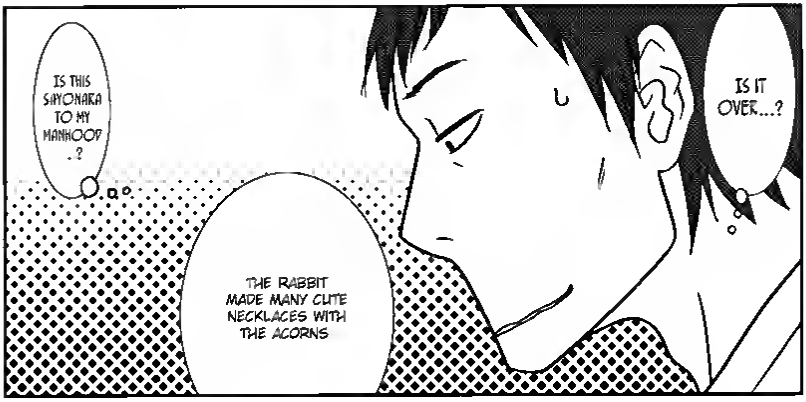
*On paper Reading Aloud Card 18 Kaga Rin

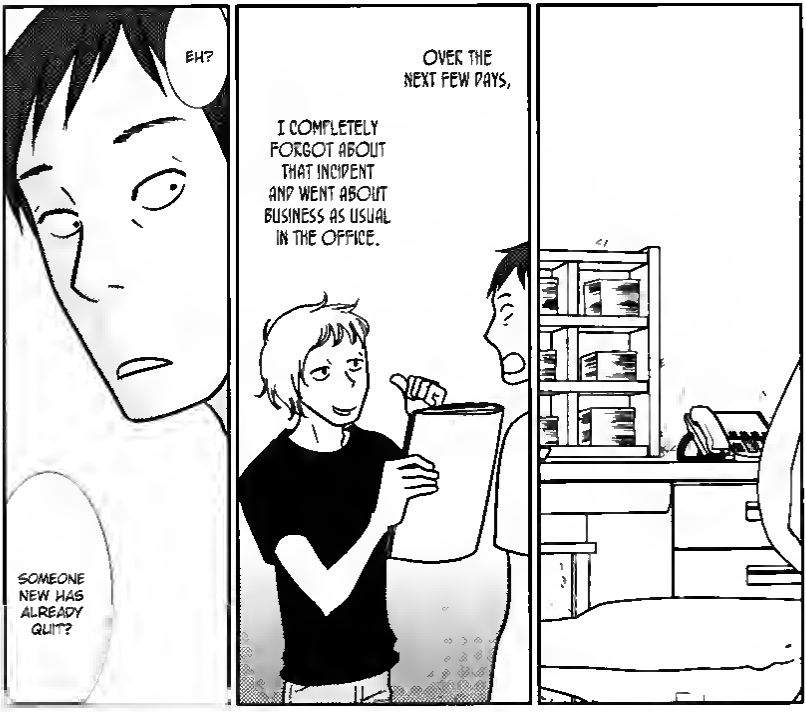




*On book cover Koku(go) = Jap(anese)

BUT I'D RATHER HAVE CURRY WITH RIN THAN HAVE SOME TROUBLESOME DINNER WITH SOME TROUBLESOME WOMAN...
"THANKS."
THE RABBIT WAS VERY HAPPY.


IS THIS SAYONARA TO MY MANHOOD.?
THE RABBIT MADE MANY CUTE NECKLACES WITH THE ACORNS
IS IT OVER...?


EH?
SOMEONE NEW HAS ALREADY QUIT?
OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS,
I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THAT INCIDENT AND WENT ABOUT BUSINESS AS USUAL IN THE OFFICE.

!!
YEAH, YEAH. HER
SEEMS SHE SUDDENLY STOPPED COMING TO WORK
LET'S SEE... WHAT WAS THAT WOMAN'S NAME AGAIN?
YOU KNOW... THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS HOVERING OVER YOU FOR SOME REASON...
ODA...SAN?
WE CAN START WITH, LIKE, A TRIAL PERIOD OR SOMETHING.
I KNOW THIS MAY SOUND STRANGE— I AM NOT ENTIRELY SURE BUT...
I'M SORRY, HIDAKA-SAN!
EXCUSE ME, HIDAKA-SAN!
OH? WHAT'S UP, KAWACHI?

I THINK I MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ODA-SAN'S RESIGNATION!!
I MEAN YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE
SOME GUY WAS ACTUALLY CHARMED INTO BUYING HER BAGS AND WHAT NOT
WH-WH-WHY ON EARTH DID SHE JOIN THE COMPANY? THAT WOMAN...
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE
...IT SEEMS THAT ODA-SAN'S QUITE LIBERAL AND UNINHIBITED WHEN IT COMES TO THAT KIND OF THING...
HUH?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT
"UNINHIBITED"...?
AAH...
I SEE...
UHM... THIS IS OFF THE RECORD BUT...

RUFFLE RUFFLE
THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
I'M SORRY.
Go easy on your hair!!
MY DEPARTURE ALSO LEFT THE TEAM SHORT-HANDED.
EITHER WAY, YOU WAIT THE YEAR OUT WITH YOUR FINGERS CROSSED.
OF COURSE THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THE NEXT BATCH OF NEW EMPLOYEES WILL LAST LONG.
ONE YEAR...
I'LL JUST HIRE MORE TEMPORARY STAFFERS AND PART TIMERS AND TRY TO STICK IT OUT FOR A YEAR
JUST LIKE US, YOU KNOW
YOU WAIT PATIENTLY.
THEY DO HAVE THE FREEDOM TO QUIT, YOU SEE.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY EVERY YEAR... YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS.
PAT
IT'S PRETTY DEVASTATING EACH TIME for the heart...
HAHA...
YOU SAID IT
WELL...
GIVEN HOW OFTEN THIS HAPPENS, IT STILL TAKES GETTING USED TO, DOESN'T IT?
ONE WHO QUITS AFTER GOING THROUGH THICK AND THIN WITH THE TEAM FOR A YEAR,
BETWEEN A NEWCOMER WHO QUITS WHILE YOU BARELY KNOW HIM OR HER, AND...
WE DON'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COST AND AMOUNT OF EFFORT THAT GOES INTO HIRING A PERSON AND SO ON.
SUP-POSE

I PERSONALLY FIND THE FORMER LESS PAINFUL...
Sssigh...

うさぎドロップ
usagi drop
宇仁田ゆみ

Senpai Woes

by phanzanu

WHY ARE FEMALE EMPLOYEES SO DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH?
Siiigh
WELL, NOT ALL OF THEM...
IF ONLY THEY WERE ALL LIKE GOTOU-SAN
O-OY, KAWACHI EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT, YOU'D BETTER NOT VERBALIZE IT...
Your hair will turn grey fast...
That's sexual harassment!!
Y-YOU... IT'S A TABOO TO SAY THAT THESE DAYS!!
I'M ONLY SAYING, CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TO BE ON TENTERHOOKS LIKE THIS EVERYDAY, IT'S DIFFICULT
Haha... ha...
Here we go again...
Ahaha...
I'm going back to the sales floor.
I'M LOUSY WITH WOMEN PROFESSIONALLY AND PRIVATELY TO BEGIN WITH
I WASN'T SAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT

J-SIS PRESENTS

Usagi Drop ch. 15

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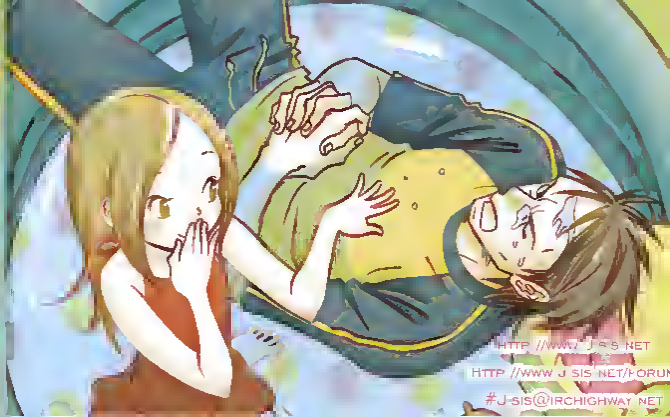

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Very popular!

Rin and Daikichi's heartwarming life. episode. 16

うさぎドロップ

宇仁田ゆみ

Yumi Unita

It's nice to splash around and cool off...
This summer is filled with activities!

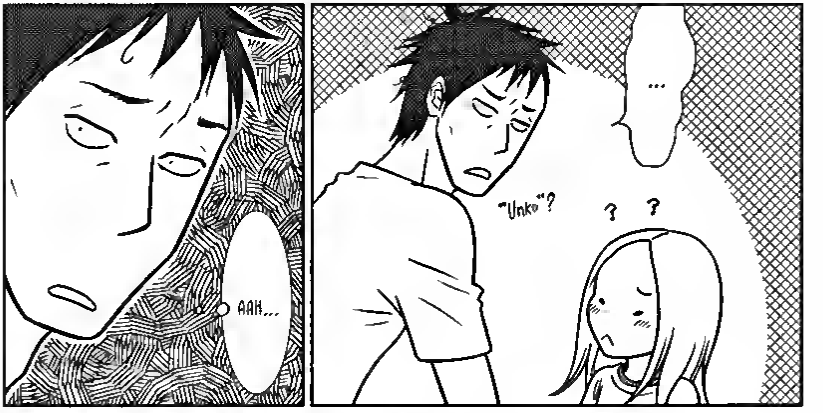
We'll pay you a midsummer's visit!

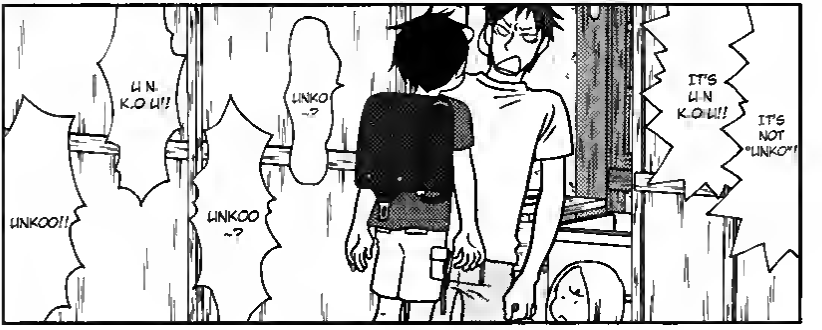
usagi drop
episode.16

DAIKICHI!
DAIKICHI!
NOW WHAT?

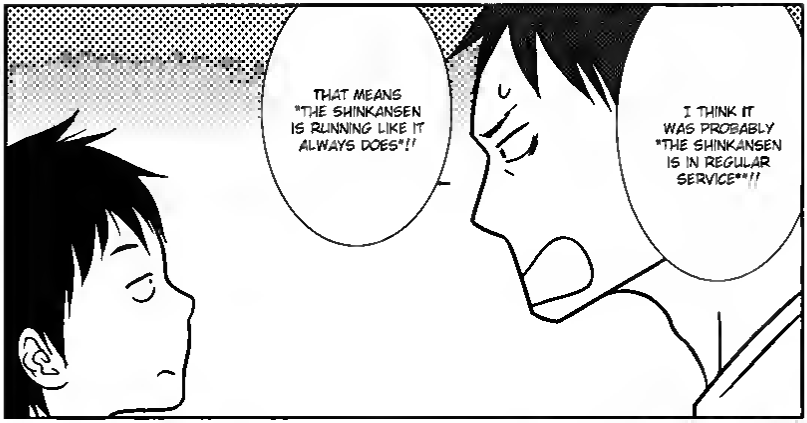
*high speed train

*unko suru = to poop

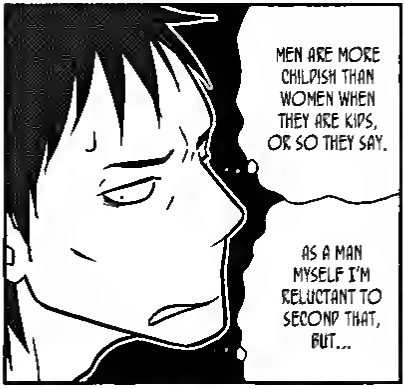




*unkou suru = to run, to be in service

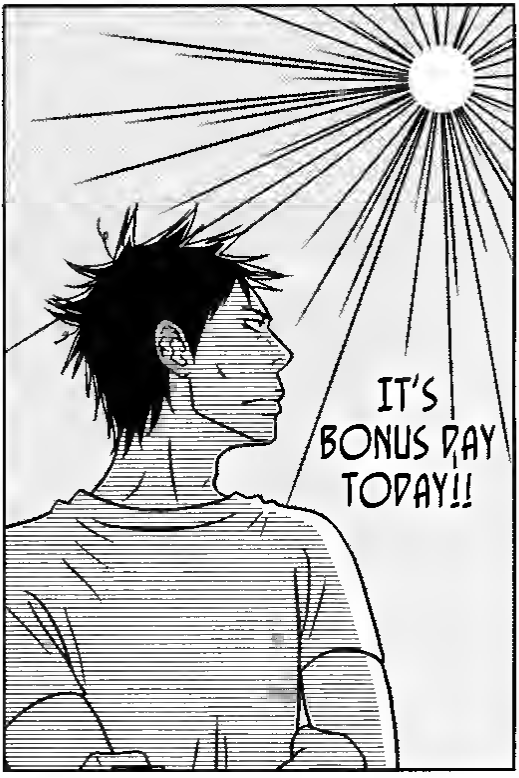


*Kouki is still saying "unko"



"TO RUN ≠ TO POOP", YOU HEAR?
AH! OY!
IT'S POOOP-ING*.
And your backpack isn't even fastened!!
BESIDES, IT'S U N K O U!!
STOMP STOMP
RATTLE RATTLE
IT'S A WORD YOU USE ONLY WITH A VEHICLE YOU GOT THAT?

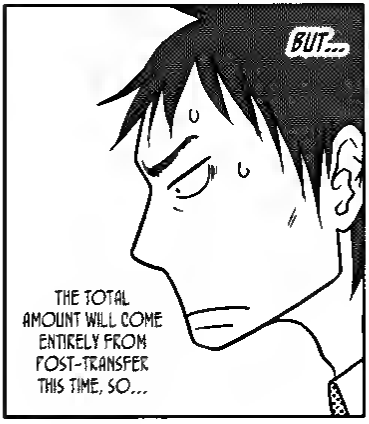
Stay still !!
CLICK
My sympathies.
GIGGLE
AND LIKE ALWAYS, I GO TO WORK AT THE OFFICE.
WELL NOW.
AND THEY'RE BEGINNING TO LOOK GOOD WITH THEIR BACKPACKS
RIN AND KOUKI HAVE STARTED PRESSING LIGHTER,



I'M NEITHER GOING ON A DATE,

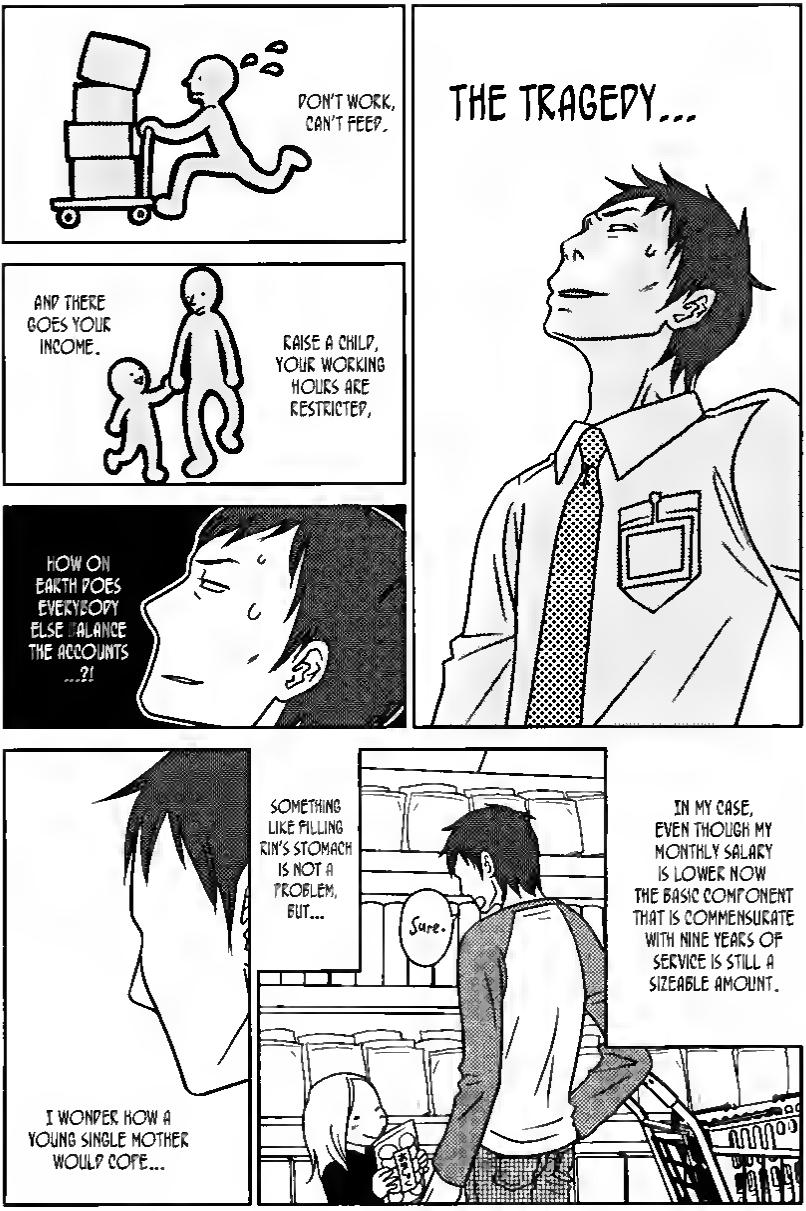
NOR HITTING THE WATERING HOLES AFTER WORK,

NEITHER AM I PLANNING TO USE THE MONEY ON ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.

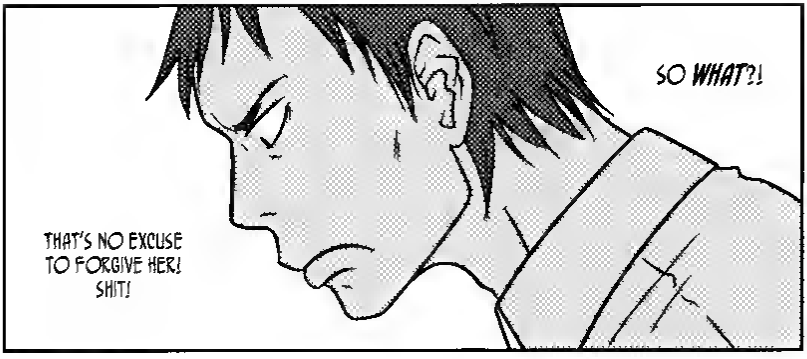


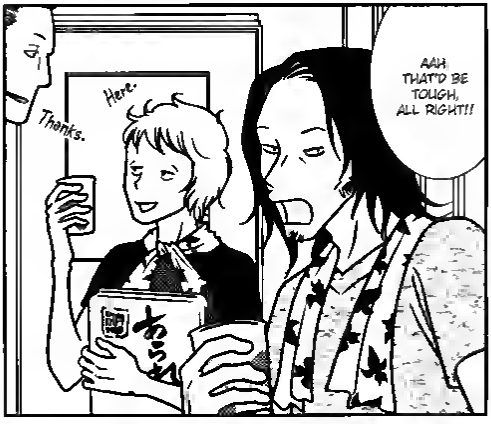
I GUESS IT'LL DEFINITELY BE SHOCKINGLY LOW...
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU PERMANENT EMPLOYEES GET SO MUCH THAT THE THING COULD ALMOST STAND?!
SO, HOW IS IT GOING? DID YOU GET A LOT?!
MY FOOT!!
I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A LOOK!!
In Private
BESIDES, THIS IS ONLY THE BREAK-DOWN!
Shoo! You morons!
excited
IS THAT YOUR BONUS?!
AH, KAWACHI-SAN!!

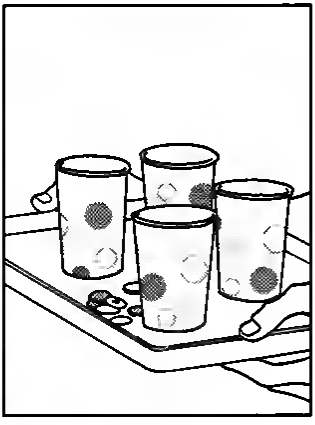
LOOOW!!
WHOOA!! IT REALLY IS SHOCKINGLY
I DON'T RECALL GETTING THAT MUCH WHEN I "HIT THE JACKPOT" WITH THE NEW MANUFACTURERS, BUT...
Uh-oh... he looks miserable.
Let's not crowd around him.
Leave him alone.
WHEN IT'S LOW, IT SURE IS MERCILESSLY LOW.


DON'T WORK, CAN'T FEED.
AND THERE GOES YOUR INCOME.
RAISE A CHILD, YOUR WORKING HOURS ARE RESTRICTED.
HOW ON EARTH DOES EVERYBODY ELSE BALANCE THE ACCOUNTS ...?!
THE TRAGEDY...
I WONDER HOW A YOUNG SINGLE MOTHER WOULD COPE...
SOMETHING LIKE FILLING RIN'S STOMACH IS NOT A PROBLEM, BUT...
Sure.
IN MY CASE, EVEN THOUGH MY MONTHLY SALARY IS LOWER NOW THE BASIC COMPONENT THAT IS COMMENSURATE WITH NINE YEARS OF SERVICE IS STILL A SIZEABLE AMOUNT.

RUFFLe
RUFFLe
CLUNK


SO WHAT?!
THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO FORGIVE HER! SHIT!


Hi!
Here.
Thanks.
AAH THAT'D BE TOUGH, ALL RIGHT!!



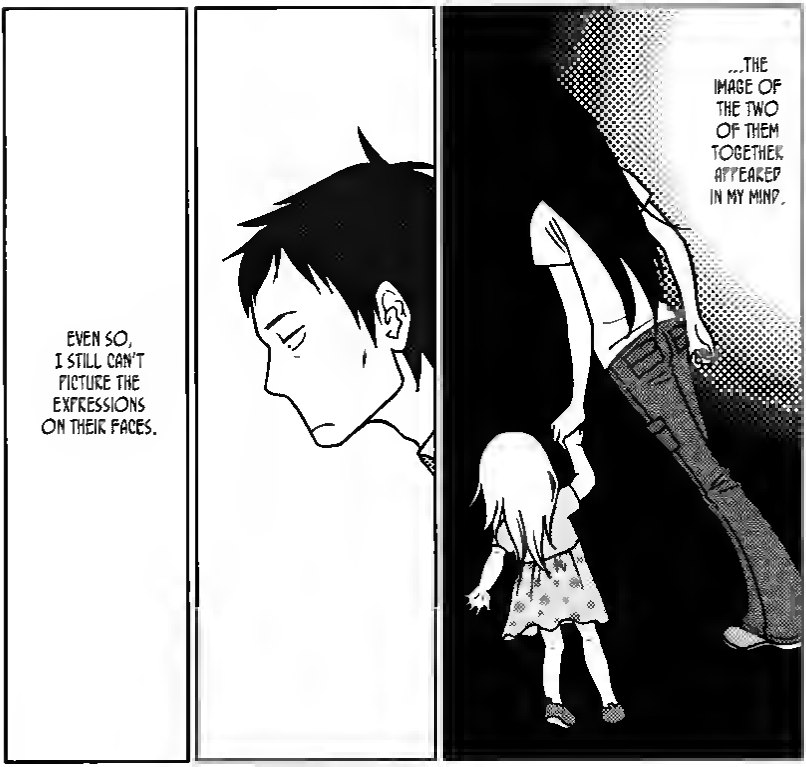
WELL...
ME I AIN'T NO PERMANENT STAFF, BUT I GET SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE SO, THAT HELPS, YA KNOW.

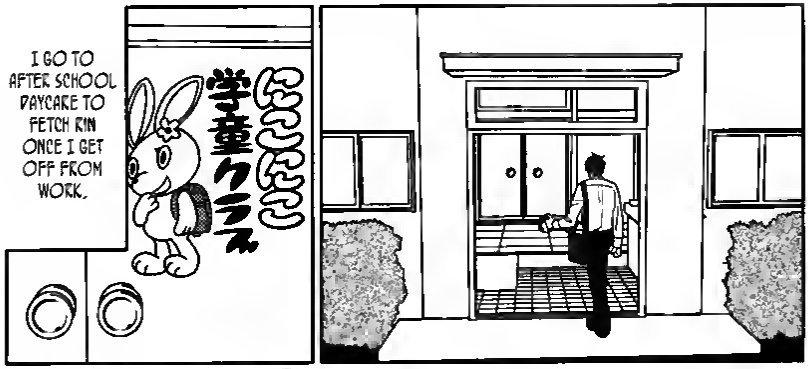
BUT THERE'S THAT ENGLISH CLASS I MENTIONED AND HE OUTGROWS HIS CLOTHING SO QUICKLY.
MY KID IS STILL LITTLE, SO MY CHILDCARE EXPENSES DON'T RUN CRAZY HIGH.
AND THEN YOU'VE GOT DIAPERS AND SUCH.

ONE THAT PAYS HER A TIDY SUM IF I CROAKED, AND A SAVINGS TYPE FOR HERSELF... THAT'S JUST... BASIC COVERAGE
Basic...
AH, THAT.
THE MISSUS BOUGHT IT WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.
WHAT ABOUT LIFE INSU-RANCE AND THE LIKE?
WELL, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MY KID AT THE END OF THE DAY SO
COLLEGE LOOKS LIKE A LONG SHOT STILL YOU KNOW
YEAH! THAT! THAT!
I have two kids after all...
AND THEN THERE'S EDUCA-TION INSU-RANCE
FOR RIN AND FOR MYSELF.
THAT REMINDS ME — I HAVEN'T BOUGHT ANY POLICIES YET.
IT'S NOT IMPRESSIVE AT ALL
IMPRES-SIVE...
YOU GUYS ARE "DADDIES" ALL RIGHT...

EHHHH. I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND. I'LL BE FIIINE.
Fine?
AND YOU! JUST YOU WAIT! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET MARRIED!!
SHEESH. I SERIOUSLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE HELL I'M WORKING FOR ANYMORE
I WONDER HOW MUCH IT WILL COST...?
I'M THINKING OF MOVING BECAUSE OF THE NOISY KID NEXT DOOR, BUT I HAVEN'T GOT THE MONEY.
THERE'S STILL A FUNDA-MENTAL SENSE OF SECURITY WITH THEM.
EVEN THOUGH THESE FELLAS GRUMBLE...
...FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RIN'S MOTHER AT ALL.
YOU CAN NEVER IMAGINE THEM...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING SHE'S LACKING, WHAT COULD IT BE?
MONEY...?
TIME...?
WHAT COULD BE DIFFERENT BETWEEN THOSE FELLAS AND HER?
...WAS THERE, I'D LIKE TO THINK.
LOVE...?
TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME...
...THAT WOULD BE GRAMPS, WOULDN'T IT?
A PART-NER?
AH...





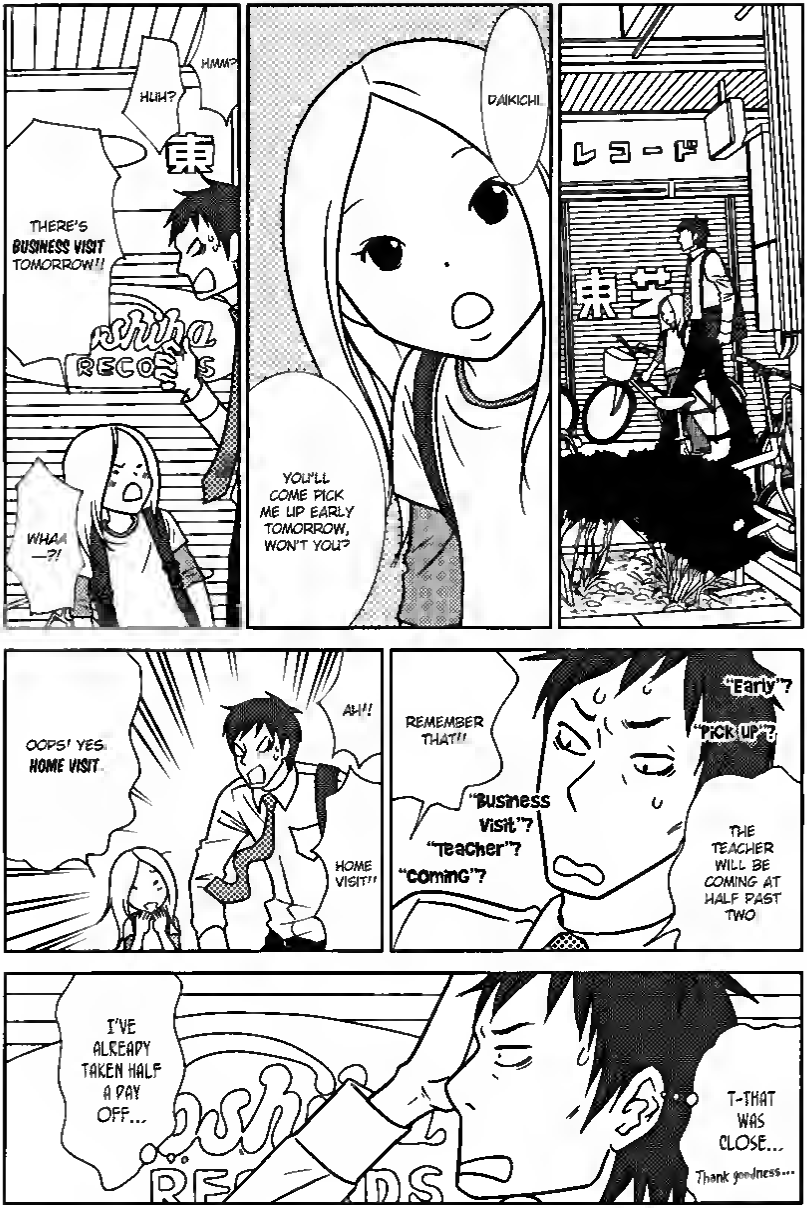
*On the door: "Niko Niko School Children's Club"

AH! I-I'M SORRY...
SHUSH
AH... YOU'RE RIN'S DADDY.
HELLO
HELLO.
"DADDY"
"KAGA-SAN"
"KAWACHI-SAN"
RIN-CHAN! TIME TO GO HOME!!
I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN PRETTY USED TO THIS, BUT...
AH...
NOT AT ALL! PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
EVEN IF IT DOESN'T BOTHER US, OTHER PEOPLE WILL STILL BE UNCOMFORT-ABLE...
SO THIS WAS PARTLY WHY MOM WAS ALL FOR RIN ADOPTING THE SURNAME "KAWACHI"...
...REGARDLESS OF *WHICH* ONE THE OTHER PARTY CHOOSES, IT FEELS LIKE MY FEELINGS ARE BEING GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FOR SOME REASON.

DAIKICHI
CAN I ALSO COME TO YOUR PLACE?
HUH?!
YO!
YO!
ARE YOU NU... NO WAY, NO WAY!
THE PERSON WHO TAKES YOU HOME IS PREDETERMINED!!
?
FOR YOU, IT'S YOUR MOM AND FOR RIN, IT'S ME! YOU DON'T GO HOME WITH ANYBODY ELSE!
BUT MOM'S GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN TODAY.
AND EVERYONE'S ALREADY GONE. I'M BORED
EHHH
BESIDES, YOUR MOM'S GOING TO BE WORRIED IF YOU DISAPPEAR SUDDENLY.

*a beef and potato dish

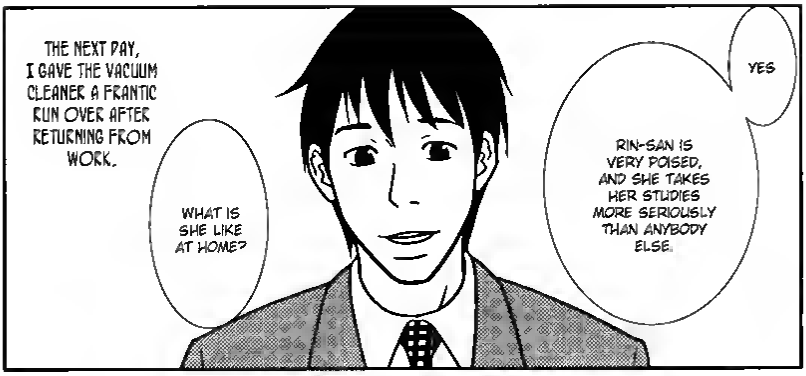
AND DINNER'S JUST CURRY OR NIKUJAGA* OR THE LIKE, OK?
CURRY SOUNDS FINE. JUST FINE
DON'T YOU "JUST FINE" ME...
IN THAT CASE, TALK TO YOUR MOM. IF SHE SAYS "OK", THEN I'M FINE.
YES, SIR!!
BUT TODAY'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, ALL RIGHT?
HOMEWORK? DON'T YOU GUYS START WORKING ON IT THE MINUTE YOU GET HERE?
HOW MANY HOURS IS THAT KID TAKING...?
UH-HUH
KOUKI-KUN!! COME FINISH UP YOUR HOMEWORK!!
Ah. Coming.
BYE BYE!
BYE BYE

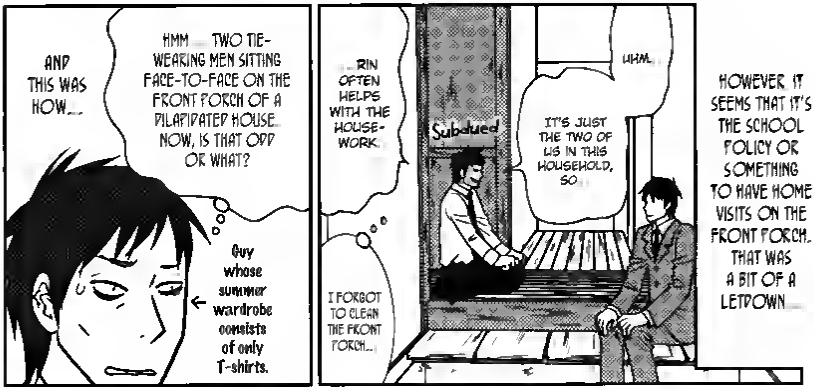

HMM?
HUH?
THERE'S BUSINESS VISIT TOMORROW!!
WHAA—?!
DAIKICHI.
YOU'LL COME PICK ME UP EARLY TOMORROW, WON'T YOU?
レコード
OOPS! YES. HOME VISIT.
AH!!
HOME VISIT!!
REMEMBER THAT!!
"Business visit"?
"Teacher"?
"Coming"?
"Early"?
"Pick up"?
THE TEACHER WILL BE COMING AT HALF PAST TWO
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN HALF A PAY OFF...
T-THAT WAS CLOSE...
Thank goodness...

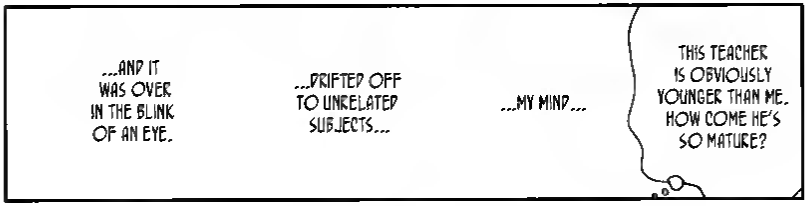
*On the paper:
Notice On Home Vis(its)

...DOES EVERYONE REALLY ADHERE TO THAT...?
IT SAYS HERE NOT TO BOTHER WITH TEA AND CAKES, BUT...
LET'S SEE
YOU'LL BE TOTALLY SCREWED BY THE LITTLE BUGGER!
SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T TAKE THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE TOO LITERALLY, OR...
I DON'T SUPPOSE I HAVE TO DEDUCE THE MEANING BEHIND THOSE WORDS OR SOMETHING IN THIS CASE...?
Come to think of it, if the sensei were served tea at each house ... Oh, boy. That'd be awful.

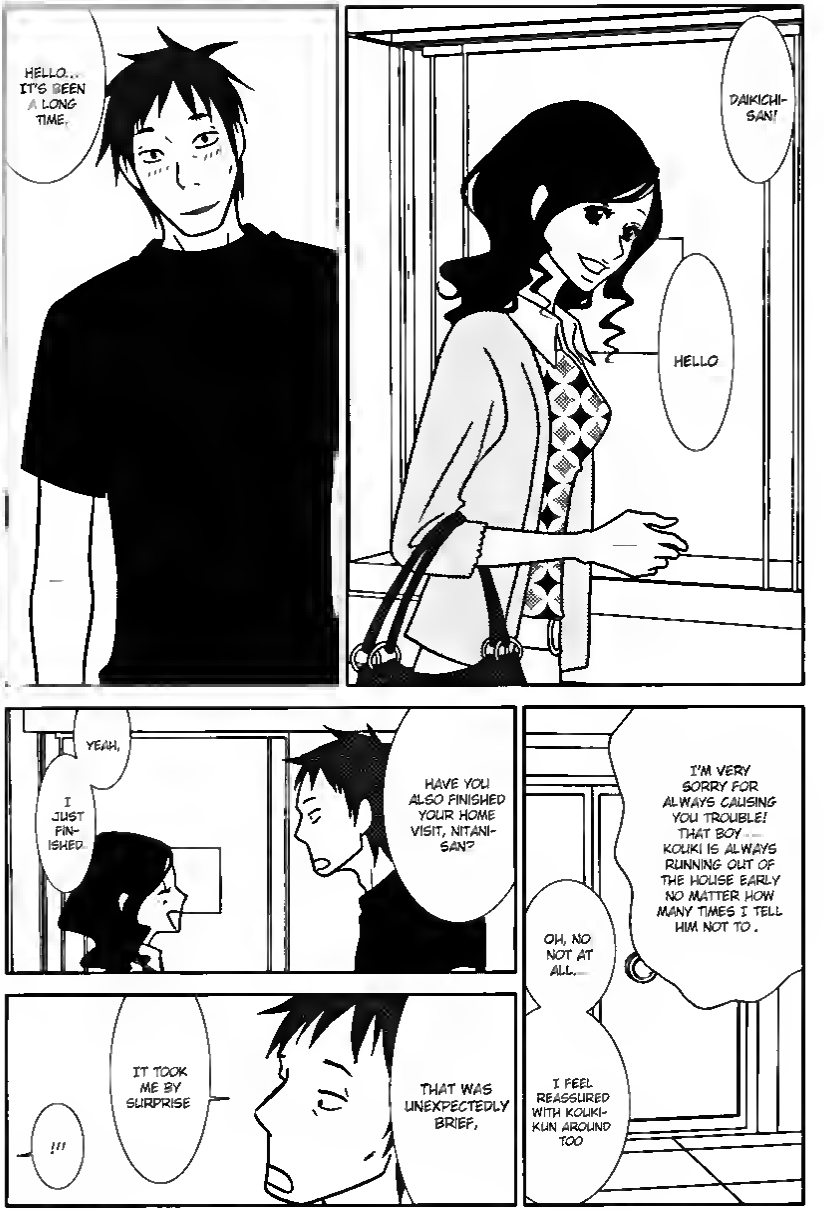
HMM. THIS NIKUJAGA SMELLS KINDA NICE...
OH, MY BAD.
INCIDENTALLY, RIN?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT STUFF, SO THE BOTTOM GOT A LITTLE BURNT...
ANY IDEA WHAT I SHOULD BE SAYING DURING A HOME VISIT?
NOPE
RIGHT... HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
...
GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS UNNERVE ME. I GOT NOTHING BUT CRITICISM FROM THEM, THAT'S WHY.
GEEZ. RIN'S TEACHER IS NICE, BUT I'M STILL NERVOUS...
...AS NERVOUS AS WALKING FAST THE COPS.


THE NEXT DAY, I GAVE THE VACUUM CLEANER A FRANTIC RUN OVER AFTER RETURNING FROM WORK.
WHAT IS SHE LIKE AT HOME?
RIN-SAN IS VERY POISED, AND SHE TAKES HER STUDIES MORE SERIOUSLY THAN ANYBODY ELSE.
YES


AND THIS WAS HOW...
HMM... TWO TIE-WEARING MEN SITTING FACE-TO-FACE ON THE FRONT PORCH OF A DILAPIDATED HOUSE. NOW, IS THAT ODD OR WHAT?
Guy whose summer wardrobe consists of only T-shirts.
...RIN OFTEN HELPS WITH THE HOUSE-WORK.
I FORGOT TO CLEAN THE FRONT PORCH...
Subdued
UHM...
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US IN THIS HOUSEHOLD, SO...
HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT IT'S THE SCHOOL POLICY OR SOMETHING TO HAVE HOME VISITS ON THE FRONT PORCH. THAT WAS A BIT OF A LETDOWN...


...AND IT WAS OVER IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
...DRIFTED OFF TO UNRELATED SUBJECTS...
...MY MIND...
THIS TEACHER IS OBVIOUSLY YOUNGER THAN ME. HOW COME HE'S SO MATURE?

AH
*On the door (N)ike (C)lub


HELLO... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
DAIKICHI-SAN!
HELLO
HAVE YOU ALSO FINISHED YOUR HOME VISIT, NITANI-SAN?
YEAH, I JUST FIN-ISHED
I'M VERY SORRY FOR ALWAYS CAUSING YOU TROUBLE! THAT BOY — KOUKI IS ALWAYS RUNNING OUT OF THE HOUSE EARLY NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TELL HIM NOT TO.
OH, NO NOT AT ALL.
I FEEL REASSURED WITH KOUKI-KUN AROUND TOO
THAT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY BRIEF.
IT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE
!!!

I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HOME VISITS INVOLVED DISCUSSING THE CHILD'S BEHAVIOR AT HOME SO I LET MY GUARD DOWN
I... THE TEACHER AND I DON'T... SEEM TO GET ALONG...
Ah... I... erm, sorry...
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...? SHE WAS, UM, PRETTY TERSE...
AH AND ONE MORE THING —
OH... I'M MORE COMFORTABLE THAT WAY, SO...
EHH.
DAIKICHI SAID IT'S OK!!
KOUKI!!
IT'S "DAIKICHI-SAN"
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT JUST CALL DAIKICHI "DAIKICHI"
AH, DAIKICHI!
Actually, Kouki is too unrestrained in my case...
P-PERHAPS IT DEPENDS ON THE TEACHER...
RIN'S TEACHER COMES ACROSS AS MILD-MANNERED, SO...
W-WAI.. RIN...
ARE YOU HAVING DINNER AT MY PLACE, KOUKI-KUN?
OH DEAR. PLEASE EXCUSE HIS BEHAVIOR.. HOW MUCH INCONVENIENCE IS THIS BOY ACTUALLY CAUSING EVERYDAY...?
HOW ABOUT TODAY? HUH?
DAIKICHI SAID IF MOM SAYS "OK", I COULD HAVE CURRY AT HIS PLACE!!

NOW, KOUKI
IT'S FINE WITH US ACTUALLY. IT'S JUST RIN AND I ANYWAY.
BUT THAT'S
YOU TOO, KOUKI-KUN'S MOM?
ALL OF US?
COME ON LET'S GO QUICKLY!
IN THAT CASE. THANK YOU WE'LL ACCEPT YOUR KIND OFFER THEN.
OH, NO. IT'S NOTHING
WE'LL JUST PUT AWAY THE BACKPACK AND COME.
And finish up homework...
WE WENT HOME AND WAITED FOR THEIR ARRIVAL.
RIN IS BRIMMING WITH SO MUCH ANTICIPATION THAT SHE CAN'T CONTAIN HER RESTLESSNESS.
I'm going to show this little one to Kouki-kun's Mom

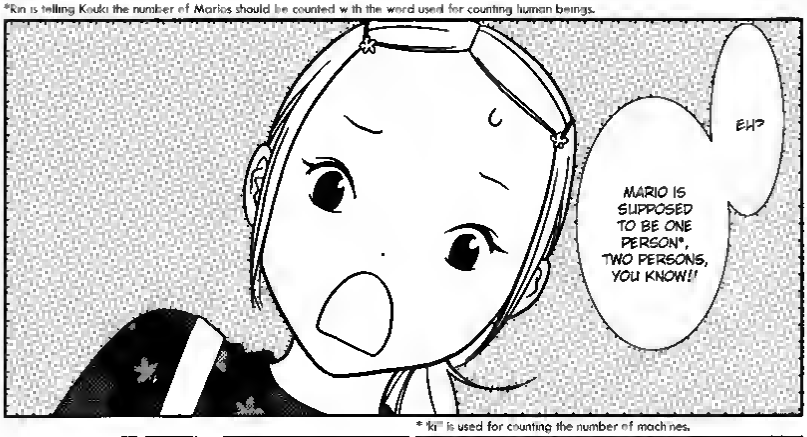
**"Osewa ni narimasu" is said before receiving favors. Literally, it means "(I) will be receiving (your) care or assistance"

A LITTLE WHILE LATER, THEY ARRIVED AFTER FINISHING THEIR SHOPPING.
WE'LL BE IMPOSING ON YOUR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY...
Where are your manners, Kouki? Go on. Say something!
But I don't have a DS!
I brought a DS! Let's have a match!
Lemme see. Lemme see.
Ahaha! No way!
I'M REALLY HAPPY TODAY
THANK YOU SO MUCH
OH, NO... THE PLEASURE'S MINE REALLY.
I WASN'T ABLE TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS FOR MY BOY UNTIL NOW.

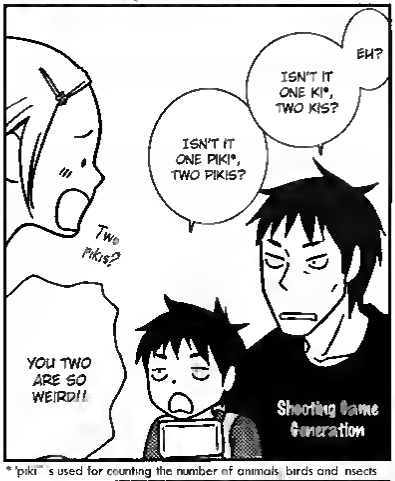
I'M GLAD I STOOD MY GROUND AND TOOK HALF THE DAY OFF ANYWAY...
EVEN THOUGH MY COWORKERS DIDN'T HIDE THEIR DISPLEASURE,
TO BE ABLE TO SEE THAT EXPRESSION ON KOUKI'S FACE...
OH THAT'S RIGHT THIS PERSON IS ALSO...
...RAISING A CHILD ALONE
...WHILE KOUKI AND I PLAY WITH THE DS.
WOOHOO! THAT'S ANOTHER NEW PIKI* FOR US!!
You can count on me for Mario!
You're awesome, Daikichi!!
Rin-chan, you're really good at this, aren't you?
AND SO, RIN TAKES POSITION IN THE KITCHEN WITH NITANI-SAN AT RIN'S REQUEST...

*a word used for counting the number of animals, birds and insects
Kouki is saying the number of Marios has just increased by one.

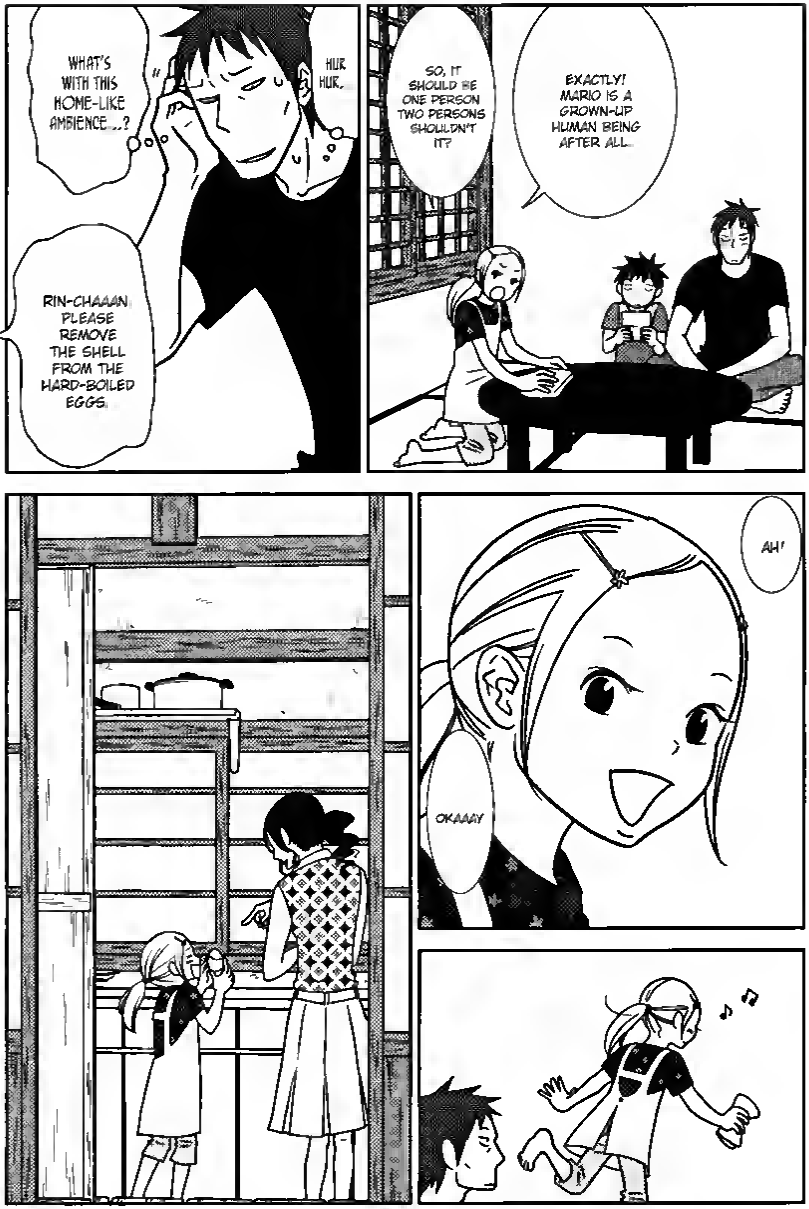
*Rin is telling Kouki the number of Marios should be counted with the word used for counting human beings.



* "ki" is used for counting the number of machines.

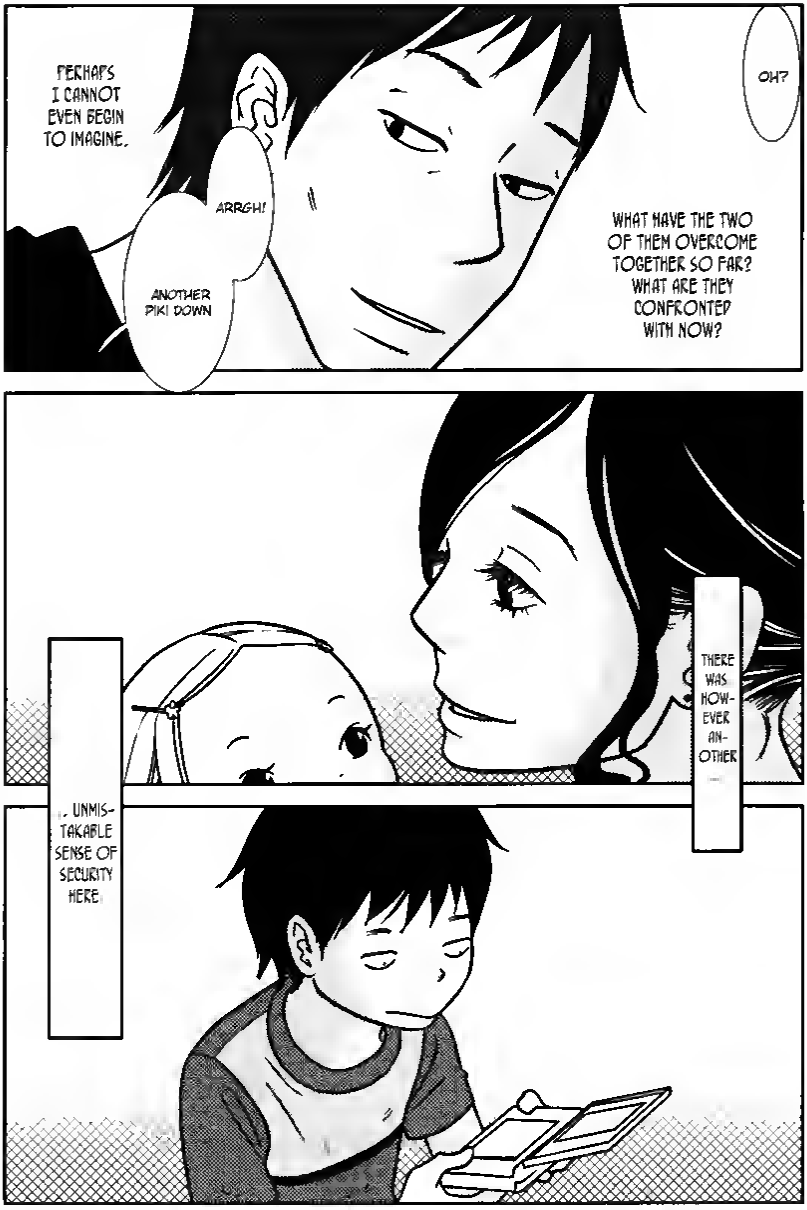


* "piki" is used for counting the number of animals, birds and insects


HUR HUR..
WHAT'S WITH THIS HOME-LIKE AMBIENCE...?
RIN-CHAAAN PLEASE REMOVE THE SHELL FROM THE HARD-BOILED EGGS.
EXACTLY! MARIO IS A GROWN-UP HUMAN BEING AFTER ALL.
SO, IT SHOULD BE ONE PERSON TWO PERSONS SHOULDN'T IT?
AH!
OKAAAY

RIN...
THAT GIRL'S
LITERALLY
WALKING
ON AIR ..
YOU LOVE
YOUR MOM,
KOUKI?

WELL...
...EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A NAGGING OLD HAG, YOU KNOW...
THE WORDS THAT WOULD HAVE COMPLETED THAT UNFINISHED SENTENCE WEREN'T NECESSARY.


OH?
WHAT HAVE THE TWO OF THEM OVERCOME TOGETHER SO FAR? WHAT ARE THEY CONFRONTED WITH NOW?
PERHAPS I CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE.
ARRGH!
ANOTHER PIKI DOWN
THERE WAS HOW-EVER AN-OTHER —
, UNMIS-TAKABLE SENSE OF SECURITY HERE.

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Usagi Drop ch. 16

Raw providers: Michex and MegaVolt's Den
Translotor: Hore.Kotobo
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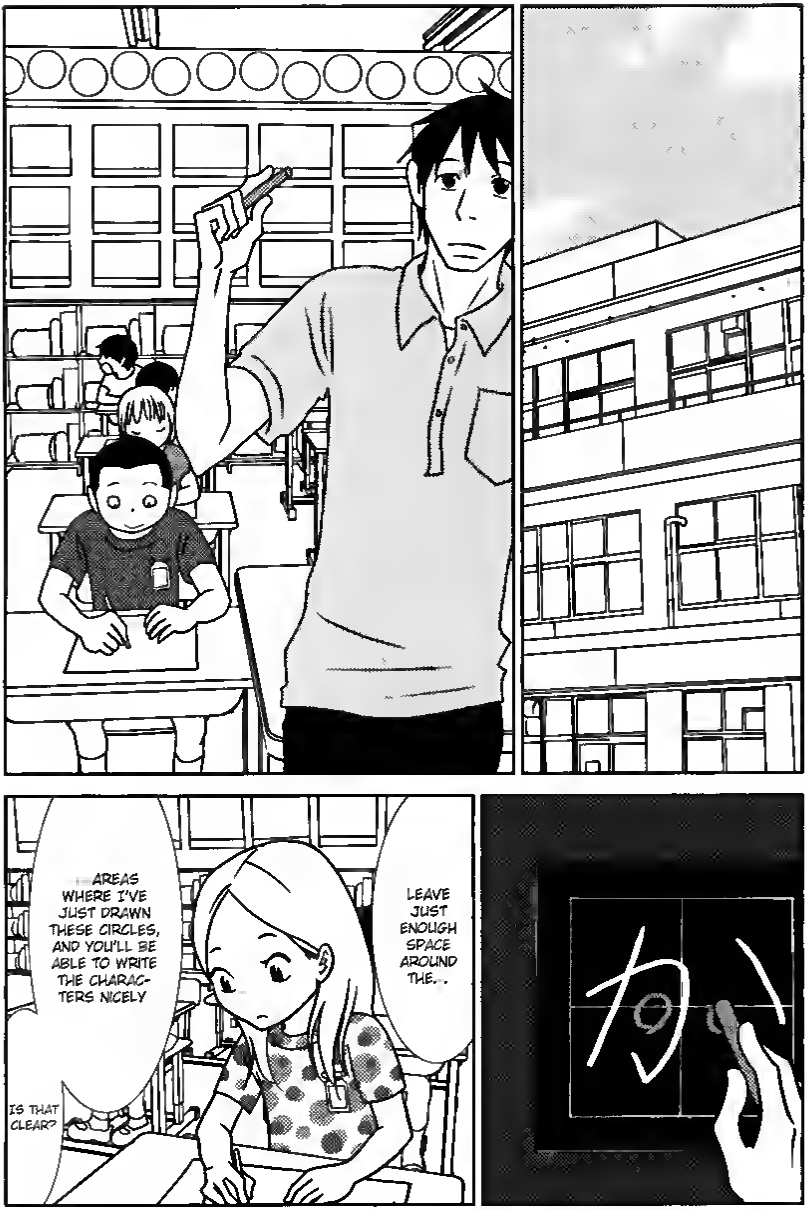
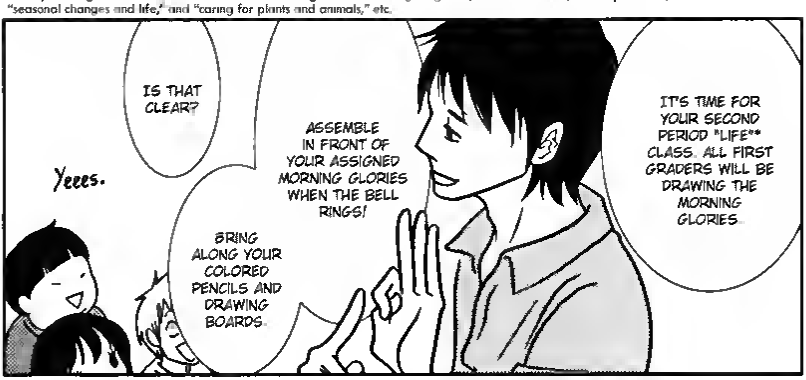
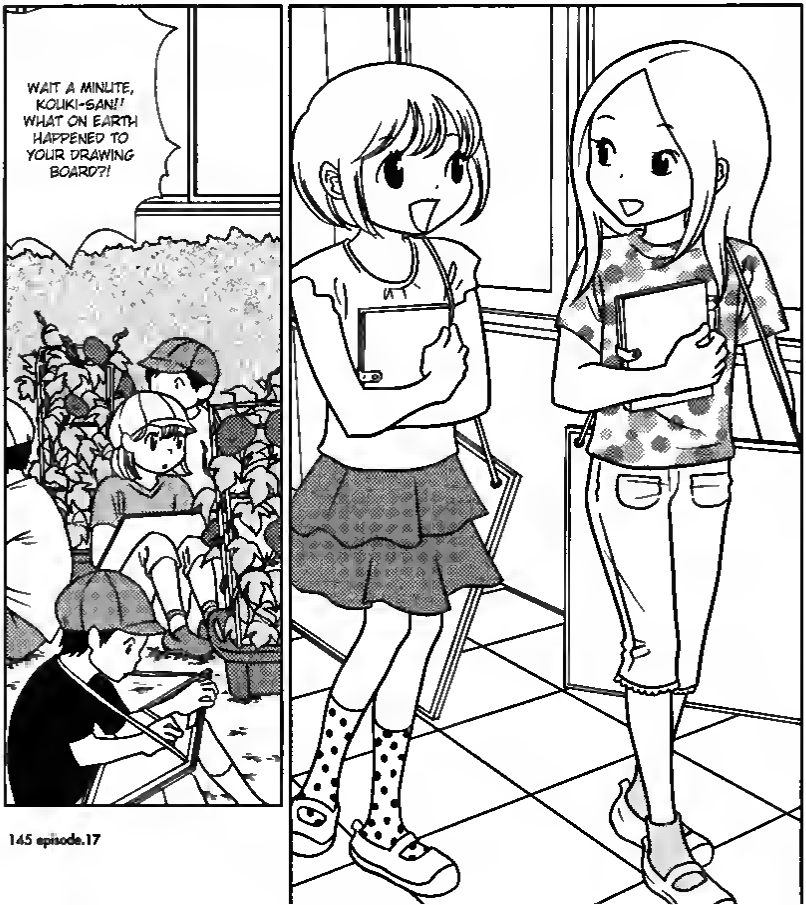
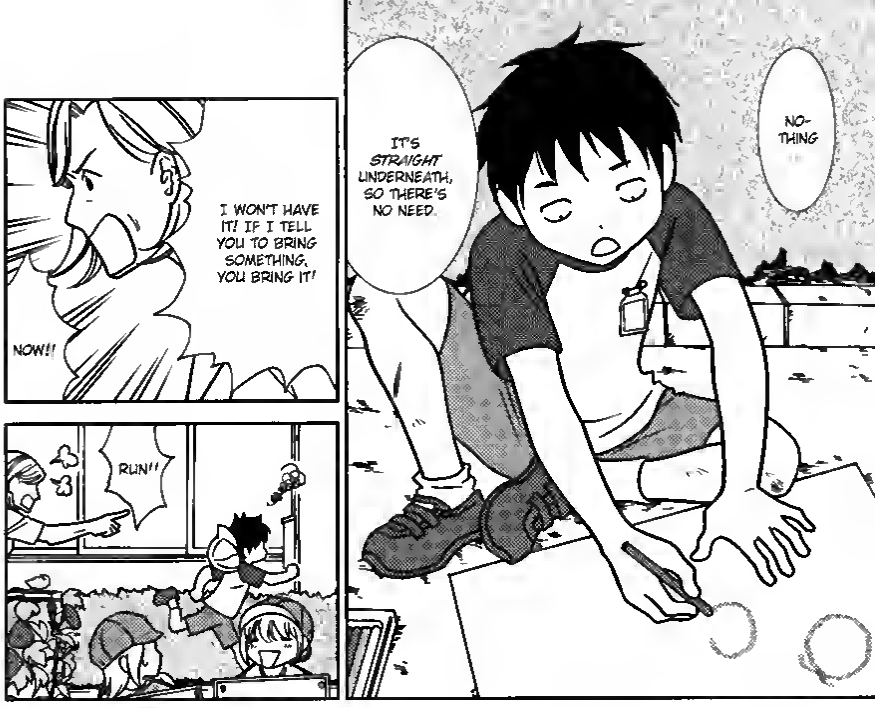

LEAVE JUST ENOUGH SPACE AROUND THE...
AREAS WHERE I'VE JUST DRAWN THESE CIRCLES, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE THE CHARACTERS NICELY
IS THAT CLEAR?
カ

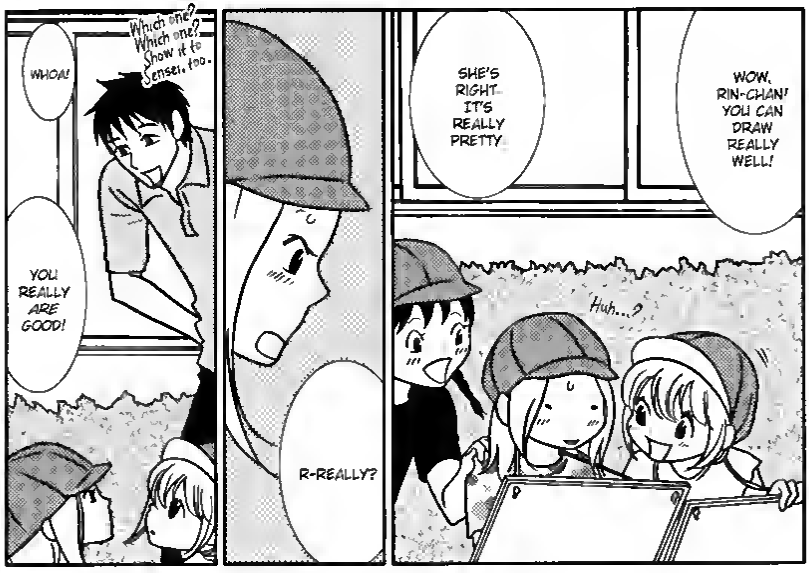
LIKE I SAID, THIS MUCH!!
SENSEI, HOW MUCH IS "JUST ENOUGH"?
WELL...
Millimeters? Nobody would know...
HOW MANY MILLIME-TERS?
HOW MANY CENTI-METERS?
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-BODY, WATCH YOUR POSTURE
WATCH HOW YOU HOLD YOUR PENCILS, TOO
AH
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME THE REST SHALL BE YOUR HOMEWORK
Is that clear?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRAW THESE CIRCLES!!
YEEES!!

*A subject designed around broad themes such as "using nature and things in games," "school and life," "family and life," "seasonal changes and life," and "caring for plants and animals," etc.


IT'S TIME FOR YOUR SECOND PERIOD "LIFE"* CLASS. ALL FIRST GRADERS WILL BE DRAWING THE MORNING GLORIES.
ASSEMBLE IN FRONT OF YOUR ASSIGNED MORNING GLORIES WHEN THE BELL RINGS!
BRING ALONG YOUR COLORED PENCILS AND DRAWING BOARDS.
IS THAT CLEAR?
Yeees.

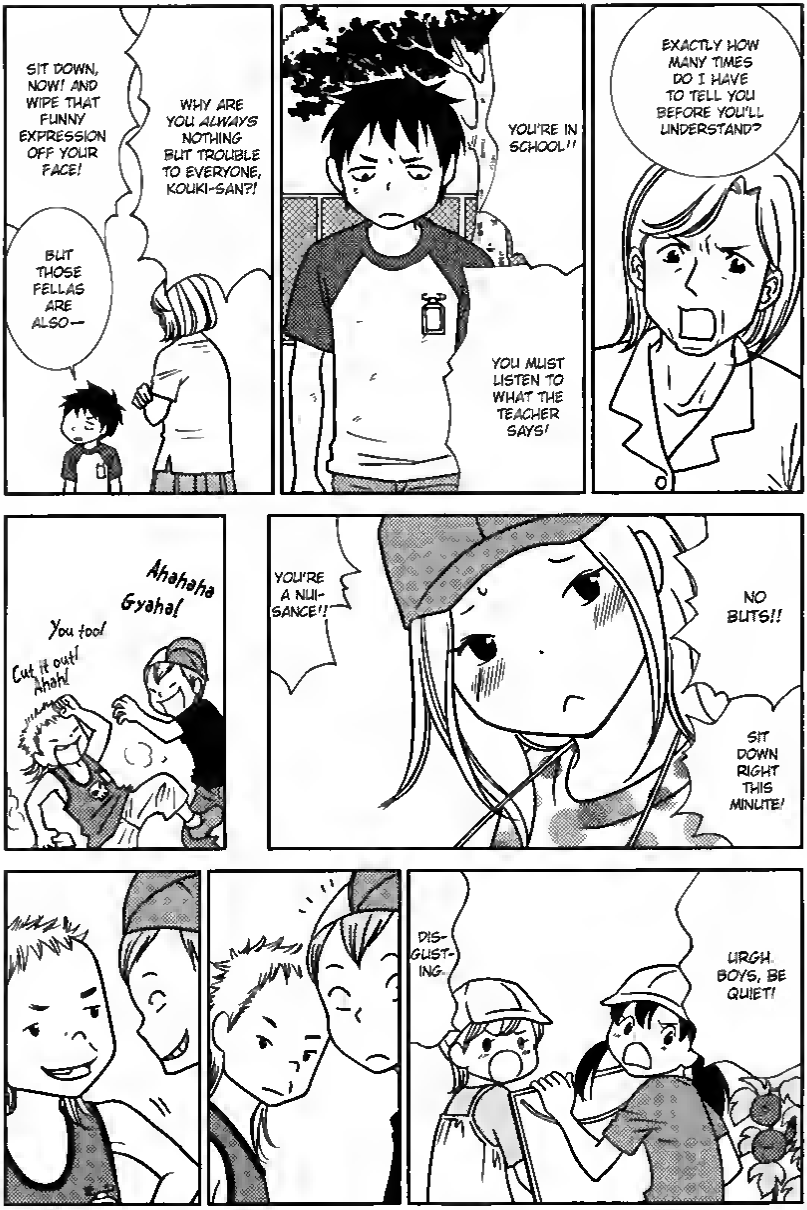


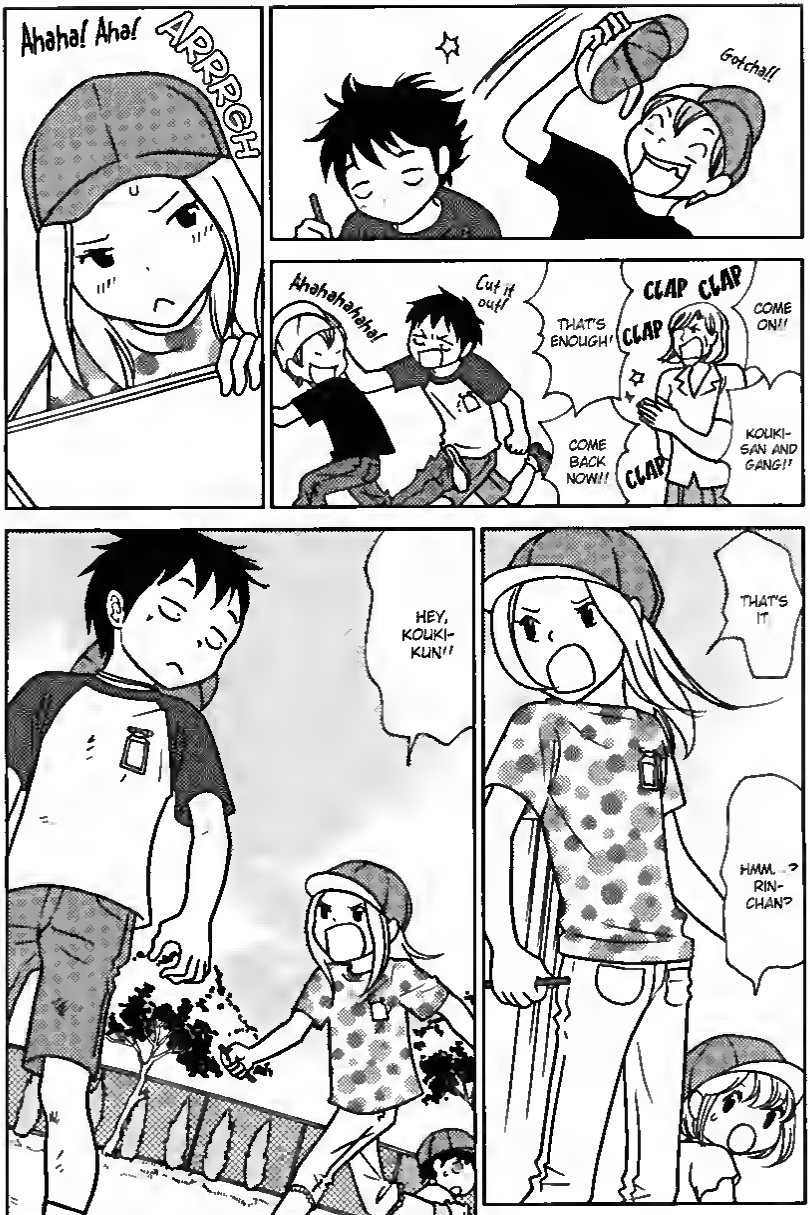

NO-THING
IT'S STRAIGHT UNDERNEATH, SO THERE'S NO NEED.
I WON'T HAVE IT! IF I TELL YOU TO BRING SOMETHING, YOU BRING IT!
NOW!!
RUN!!


WOW, RIN-CHAN! YOU CAN DRAW REALLY WELL!
SHE'S RIGHT. IT'S REALLY PRETTY.
Huh...?
R-REALLY?
WHOA!
Which one? Which one? Show it to Sensei, too.
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD!

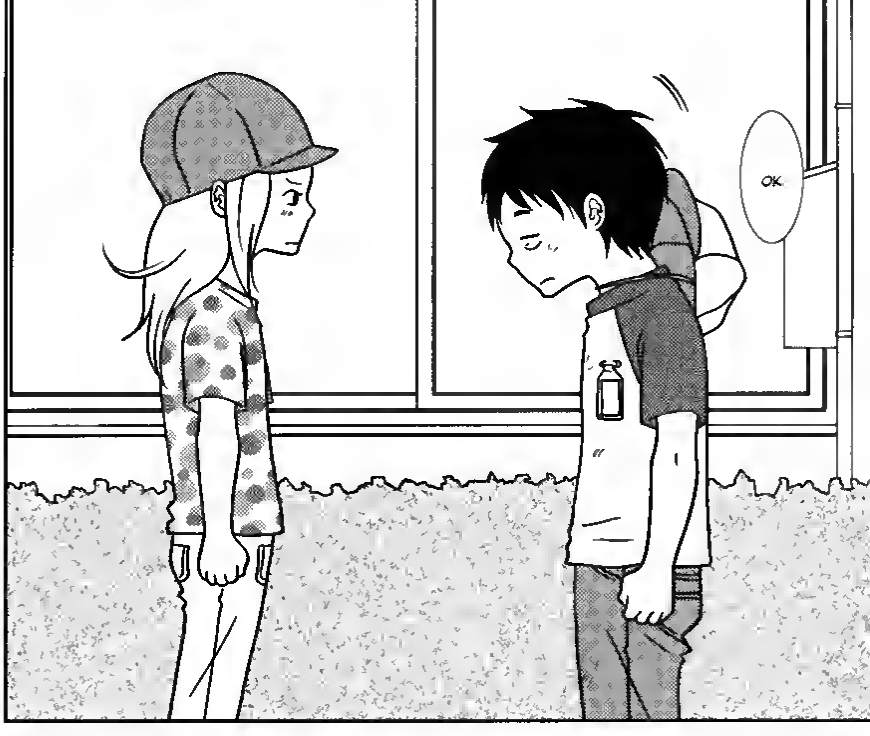
AND RIN-SAN'S DRAWING HAS BOTH BLUISH AND PURPLISH FLOWERS, TOO, DOESN'T IT?
GOOD OBSERVATION!
THIS FLOWER AND THIS FLOWER HAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT COLORS.
KOUKI-KUN'S RUNNING AROUND AGAIN...
AH

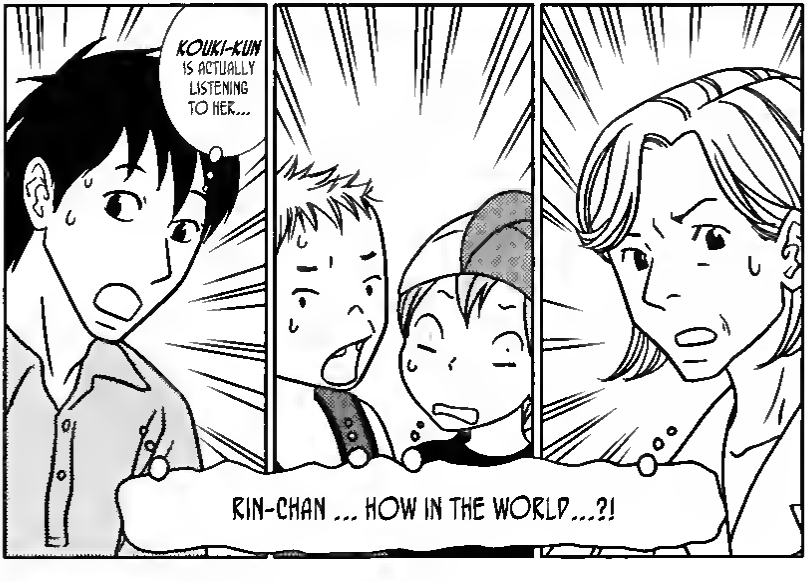
WHOA KOUKI-SAN YOUR MORNING GLORIES ARE MAGNIFICENT, AREN'T THEY?
BREAK'S ALREADY OVER.
LET'S GET YOU BACK TO YOUR ASSIGNED SPOT.
KOUKI-SAN...
TATSUMI-SENSEI! THIS CHILD IS MY CHARGE.
KOUKI-SAN!
MMM...
DO YOU LIKE TO DRAW, KOUKI-SAN?
YEAH, I GUESS...
IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE IF YOU DON'T DRAW THEM PROPERLY.

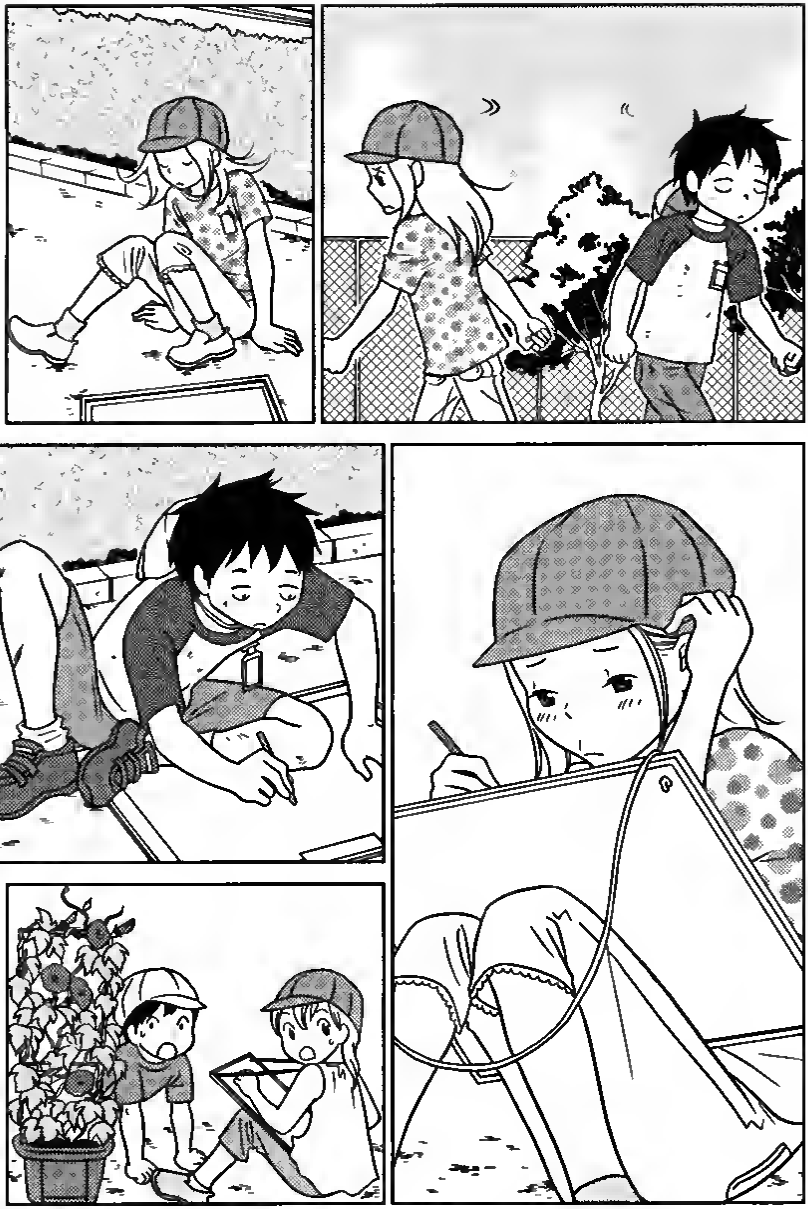

SIT DOWN, NOW! AND WIPE THAT FUNNY EXPRESSION OFF YOUR FACE!
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE TO EVERYONE, KOUKI-SAN?!
BUT THOSE FELLAS ARE ALSO—
YOU'RE IN SCHOOL!!
YOU MUST LISTEN TO WHAT THE TEACHER SAYS!
EXACTLY HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU BEFORE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND?
Ahahaha
Gyaha!
You too!
Cut it out! Ahah!
YOU'RE A NUI-SANCE!!
NO BUTS!!
SIT DOWN RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
DIS-GUST-ING.
URGH. BOYS, BE QUIET!


Ahaha! Aha!
ARRGH
Gotcha!!
Ahahahahaha!
Cut it out!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
COME ON!!
COME BACK NOW!!
CLAP
KOUKI-SAN AND GANG!!
HEY, KOUKI-KUN!!
THAT'S IT
HMM...? RIN-CHAN?

...BE OVER, YOU KNOW?
IF YOU FOOL AROUND, "LIFE" IS GONNA.
DON'T GET SIDE-TRACKED!!
SIT DOWN QUIETLY AND DRAW!!
A notion so true, it's frightening...
Wait a minute, Rin-chan...

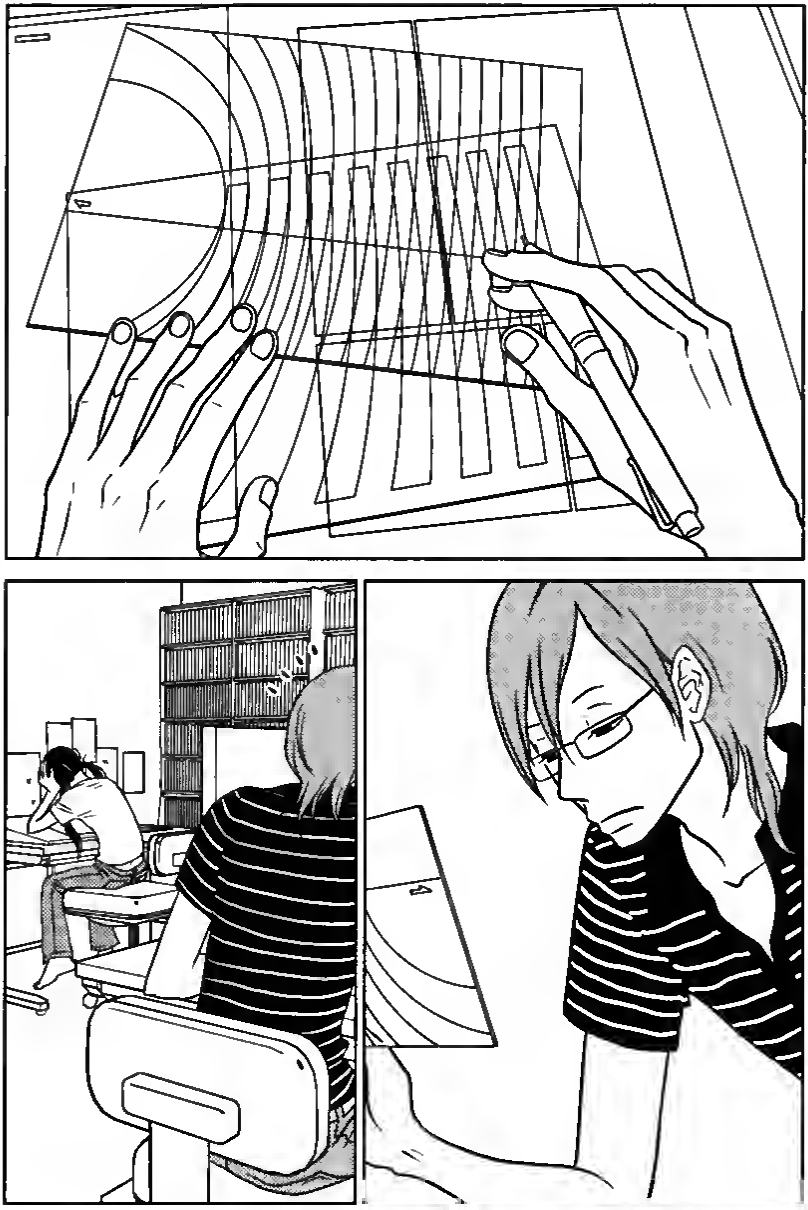

OK


KOUKI-KUN IS ACTUALLY LISTENING TO HER...
RIN-CHAN ... HOW IN THE WORLD...?!



STAAAAARE
...REALLY SCARY WHEN HE'S MAD!
AND HE NEVER LISTENS TO WHAT THE TEACHER SAYS!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? KOUKI-KUN IS...
Y-YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, RIN-CHAN, YOU KNOW THAT?
GETTING MAD AT KOUKI-KUN LIKE THAT..
I WENT TO THE SAME PRE-SCHOOL AS KOUKI-KUN, AFTER ALL..
HE'S REALLY NOT LIKE THAT!
H-HE'S NOT LIKE THAT!
Eh?
BE CAREFUL, RIN-CHAN, OR YOU'LL GET BULLIED.

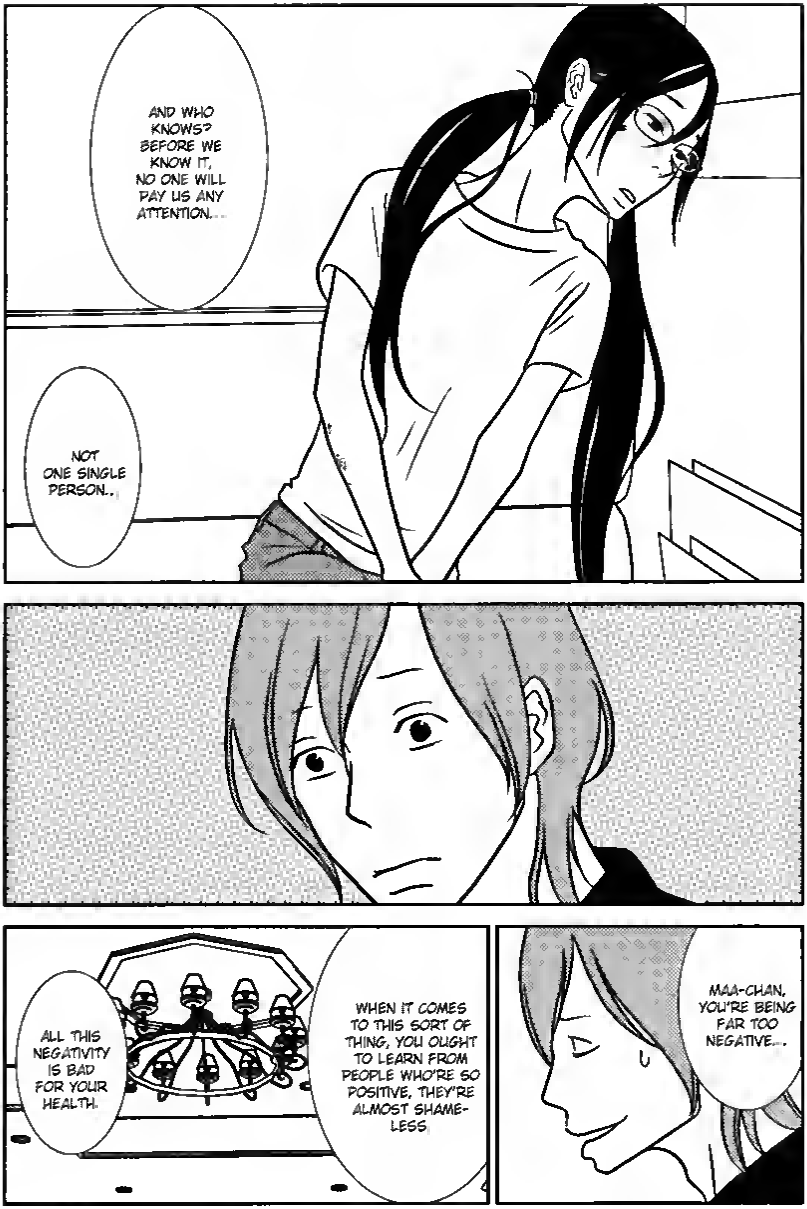
REALLY ...?
EHHH
KOUKI-KUN
...HAS NEVER ONCE BEEN SCARY
That's it!! Kouki-san, that's enough...
Sensei. Kouki-kun said "moron"!!
Sensei!!! Sensei!!!
KOUKI-SAN AGAIN?!
KOUKI, LOOK AT THIS!
SHUD-DUP, MORON!!



*Itterasshai = "Please go and come back" literally

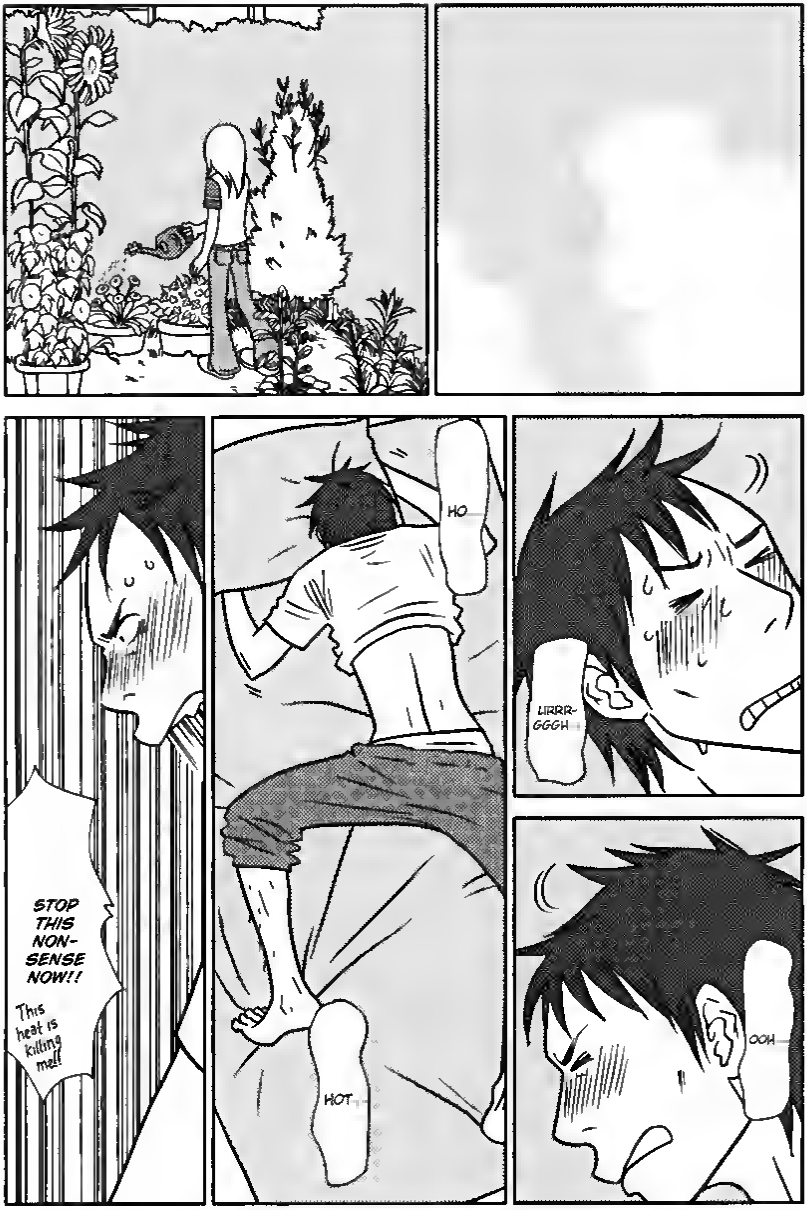
IT'S HOT...
The glare...
IT SEEMS STRESS CAN ALSO CAUSE A PERSON TO FEEL COLD THOUGH.
YOUR BODY'S LOSING TOO MUCH HEAT.
BUT YOUR HANDS ARE ICE-COLD.
BUT IF WE TURNED OFF THE AIR CONDITIONING, THE GUYS WILL PERSPIRE AND WRINKLE THE DRAFTS...
OH, REAL-LY?

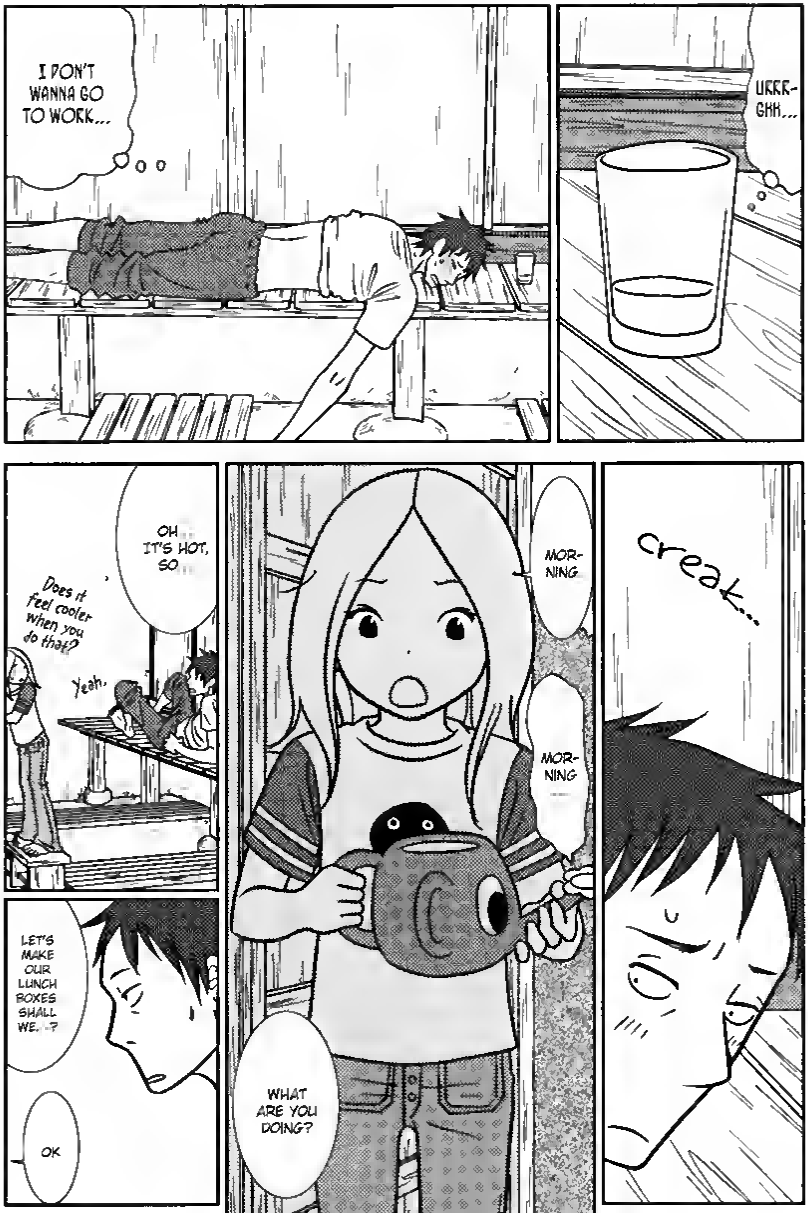
I REALLY DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING WORTH TAKING UP AND COMPROMISING THE QUALITY OF OUR ONGOING PROJECTS FOR...
MAAA-CHAN
ABOUT THAT NEW PROJECT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...?
...WE'RE MAKING A FAIRLY DECENT LIVING NOW ANYWAY. I'M TELLING YOU, WE DON'T HAVE TO BE GREEDY.
YOUR MIND AND BODY AREN'T ON THE STRONG SIDE, AND...
...SAY, PEOPLE MUCH YOUNGER THAN US ARRIVING ONTO THE SCENE IN DROVES...
THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF...
WE MAY BE THE CENTER OF ADULATION NOW, BUT WE CAN NEVER BE SURE ABOUT SUCH THINGS COME NEXT YEAR, YOU KNOW?
BUT...
...
BUT?

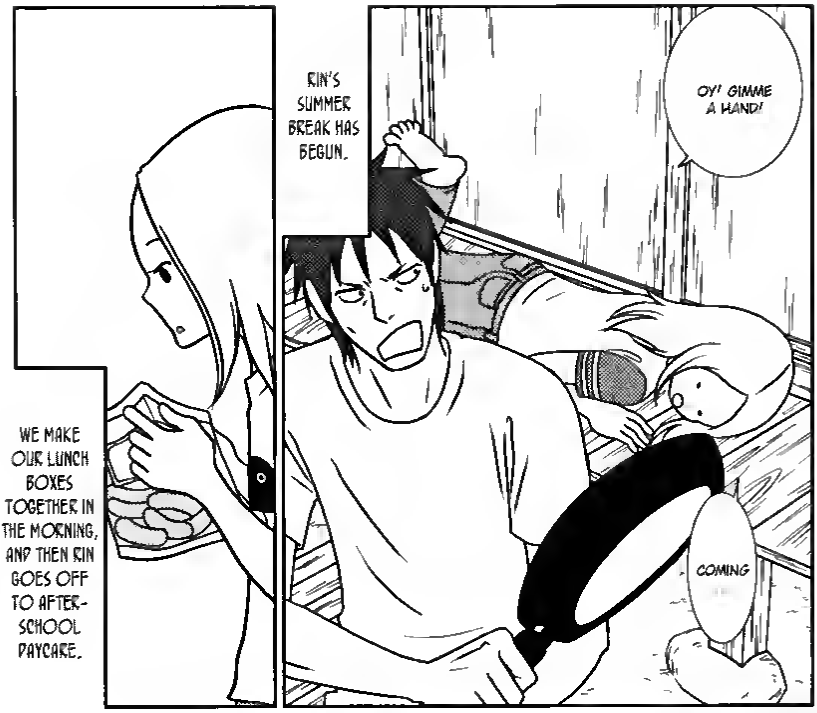

AND WHO KNOWS? BEFORE WE KNOW IT, NO ONE WILL PAY US ANY ATTENTION...
NOT ONE SINGLE PERSON...
ALL THIS NEGATIVITY IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
WHEN IT COMES TO THIS SORT OF THING, YOU OUGHT TO LEARN FROM PEOPLE WHO'RE SO POSITIVE, THEY'RE ALMOST SHAMELESS.
MAA-CHAN, YOU'RE BEING FAR TOO NEGATIVE...

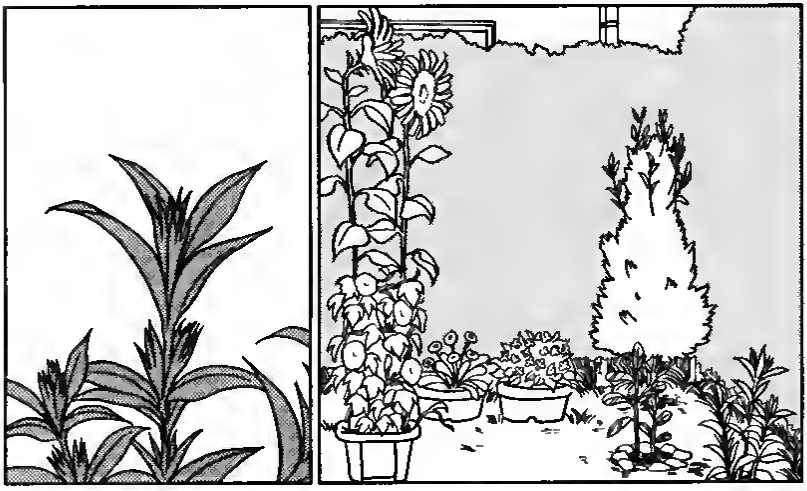
AH!
OH...?
YOU'VE GOT INK ON YOUR FACE AGAIN
It's no big deal...
OH, C'MON, MAA-CHAN. YOU'RE A GIRL AFTER ALL, YOU KNOOOW
WIPE
WIPE

I'M GOING BACK TO WORK!!!
OU-OUCH
BUMP
Did I say a forbidden word...?
I'M NOT A GIRL, OK?! I'M A MANGA ARTIST!!!
Ehhh?!
BAM
MAA-CHAN DOESN'T USUALLY TALK MUCH, SO HER VOLUME CONTROL'S...
It always happens though.
S-SORRY FOR THE COMMO-TION—

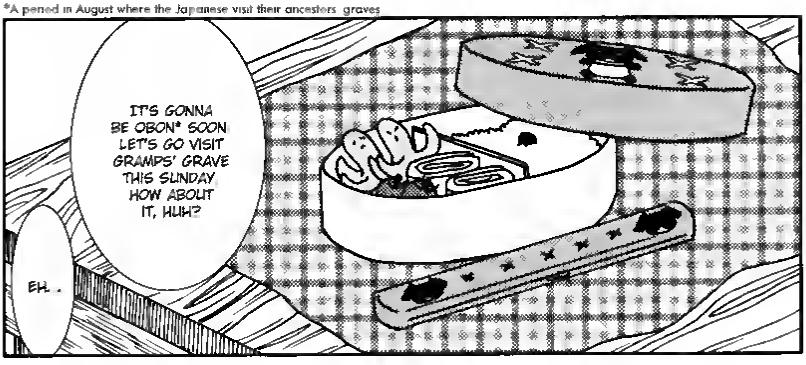

HO
HOT
LIRRR-GGGH
OOH
STOP THIS NON-SENSE NOW!!
This heat is killing me!!

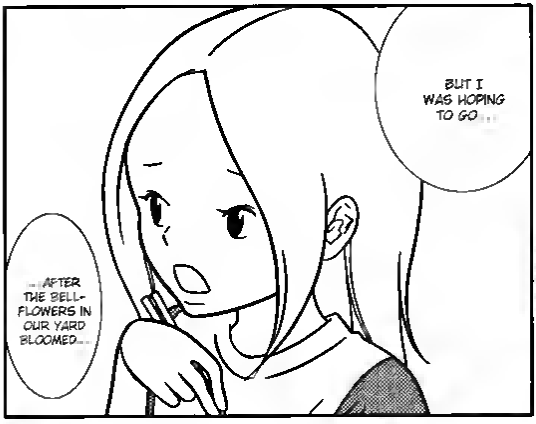

I DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK...
UKKR-GHH...
creak...
MOR-NING
MOR-NING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET'S MAKE OUR LUNCH BOXES SHALL WE..?
OK
OH IT'S HOT, SO
Does it feel cooler when you do that?
Yeah,


RIN'S SUMMER BREAK HAS BEGUN.
OY! GIMME A HAND!
COMING
WE MAKE OUR LUNCH BOXES TOGETHER IN THE MORNING, AND THEN RIN GOES OFF TO AFTER-SCHOOL DAYCARE.

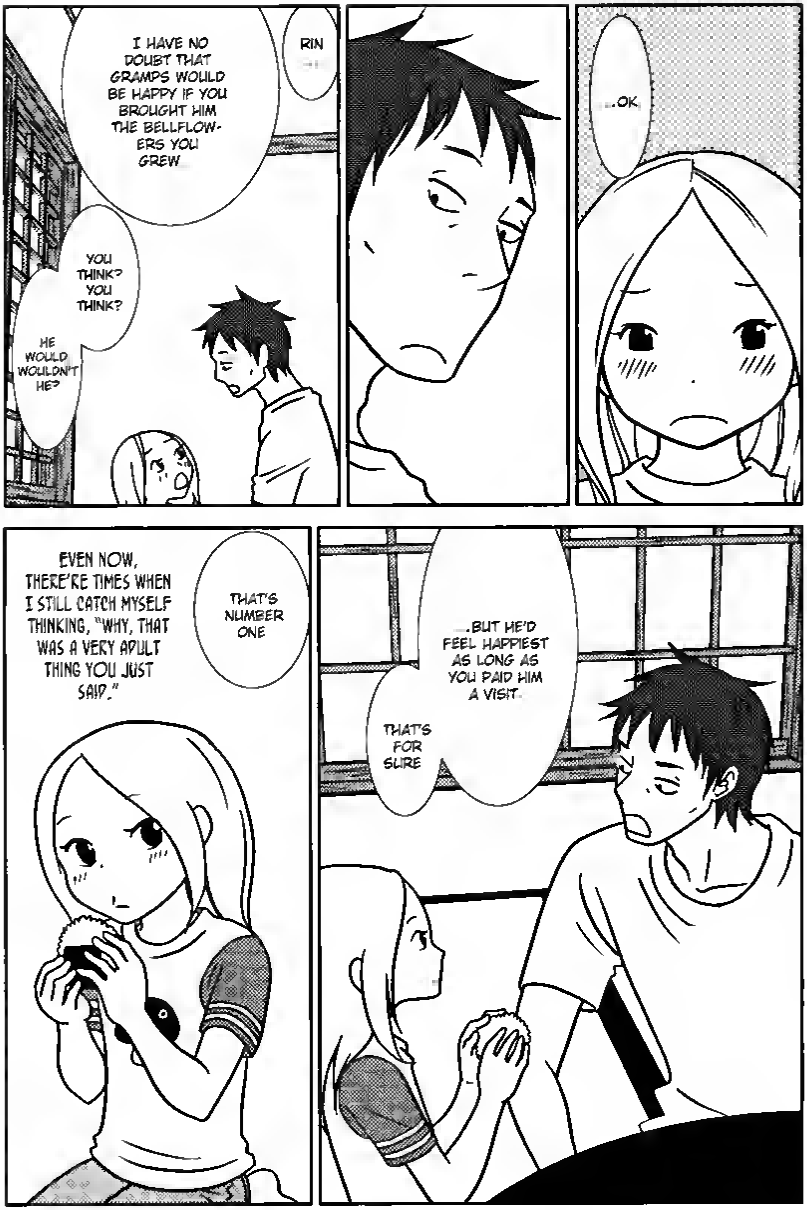


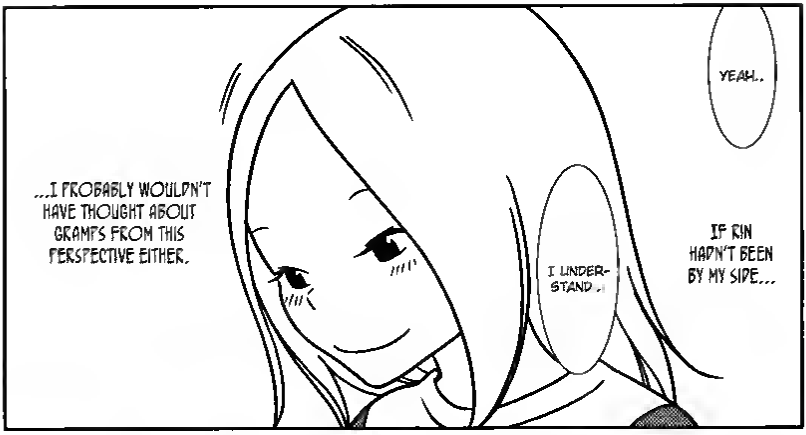
*A period in August where the Japanese visit their ancestors' graves





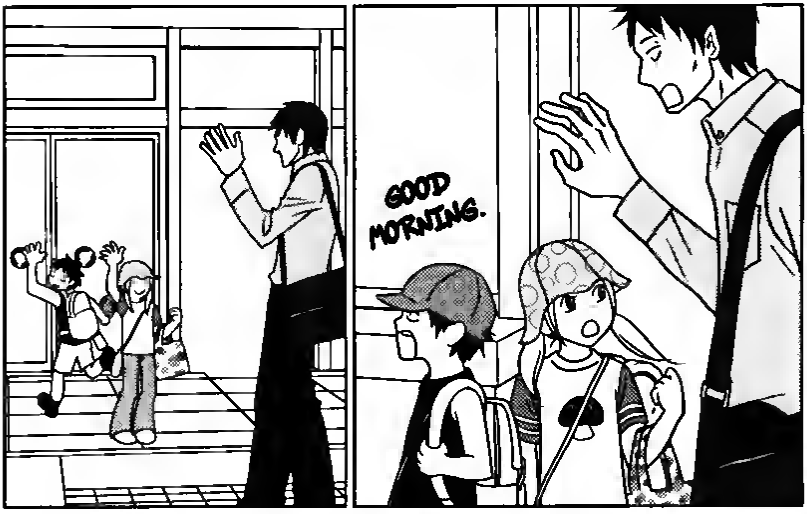
MMM. LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE LONGER FOR THEM TO BLOOM.
TELL YOU WHAT, WE'LL GET THEM FROM THE FLORIST THIS TIME,
AND WHEN THE ONES IN OUR YARD BLOOM, WE COULD ALWAYS MAKE ANOTHER TRIP


I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT GRAMPS WOULD BE HAPPY IF YOU BROUGHT HIM THE BELLFLOWERS YOU GREW.
RIN
YOU THINK? YOU THINK?
HE WOULD WOULDN'T HE?
...OK.
EVEN NOW, THERE'RE TIMES WHEN I STILL CATCH MYSELF THINKING, "WHY, THAT WAS A VERY ADULT THING YOU JUST SAID."
THAT'S NUMBER ONE
...BUT HE'D FEEL HAPPIEST AS LONG AS YOU PAID HIM A VISIT.
THAT'S FOR SURE

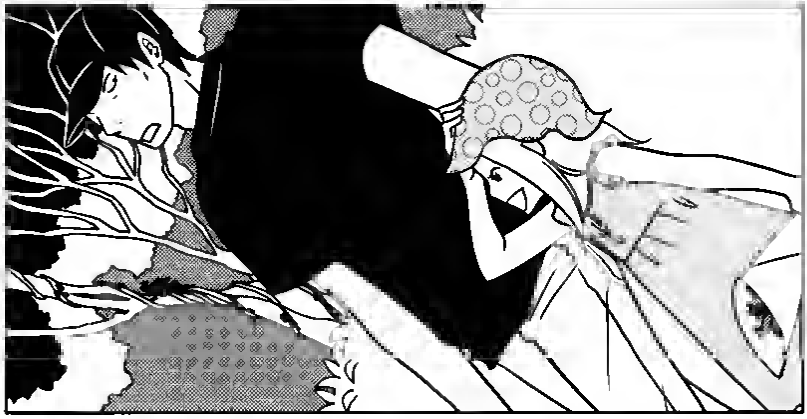

YEAH..
IF RIN HADN'T BEEN BY MY SIDE...
I UNDER-STAND.
...I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT GRAMPS FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE EITHER.

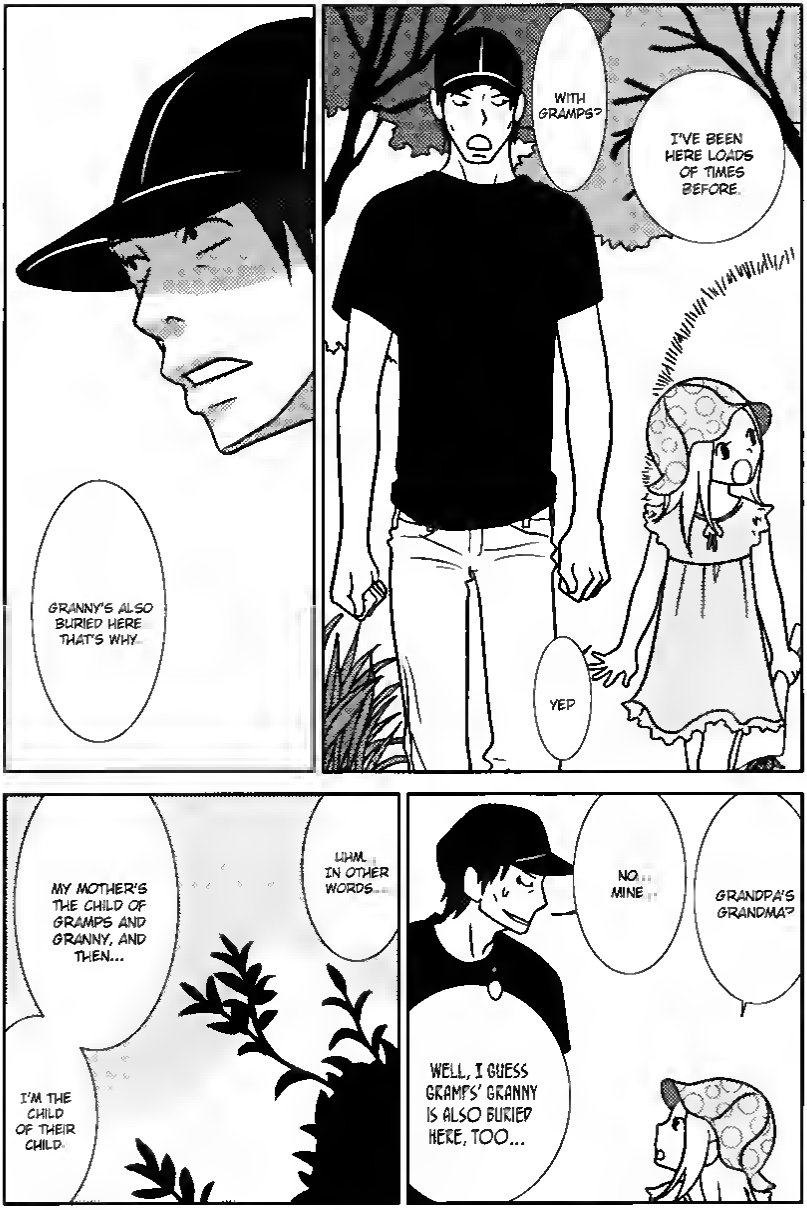
...BUT WITHOUT GIVING IT AS MUCH THOUGHT.

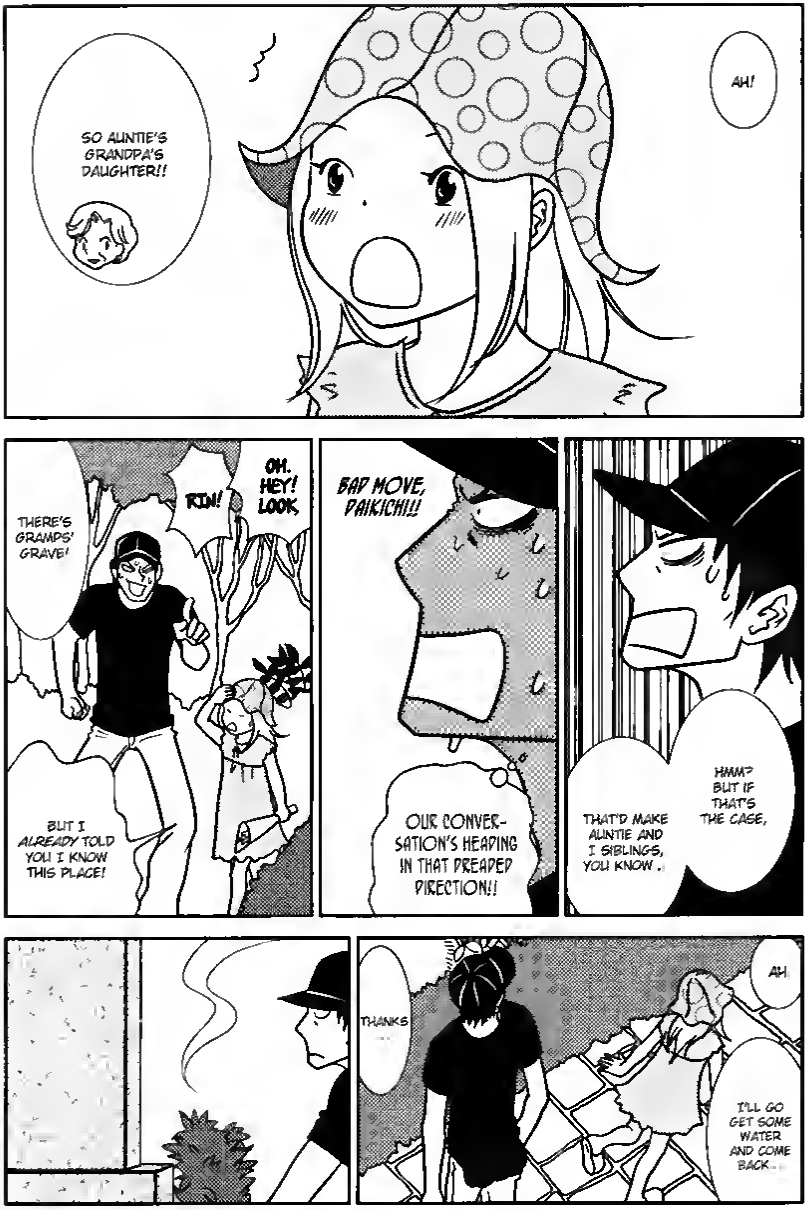
I'D PROBABLY STILL BE GOING THROUGH THE FORMALITY OF VISITING HIS GRAVE THOUGH.

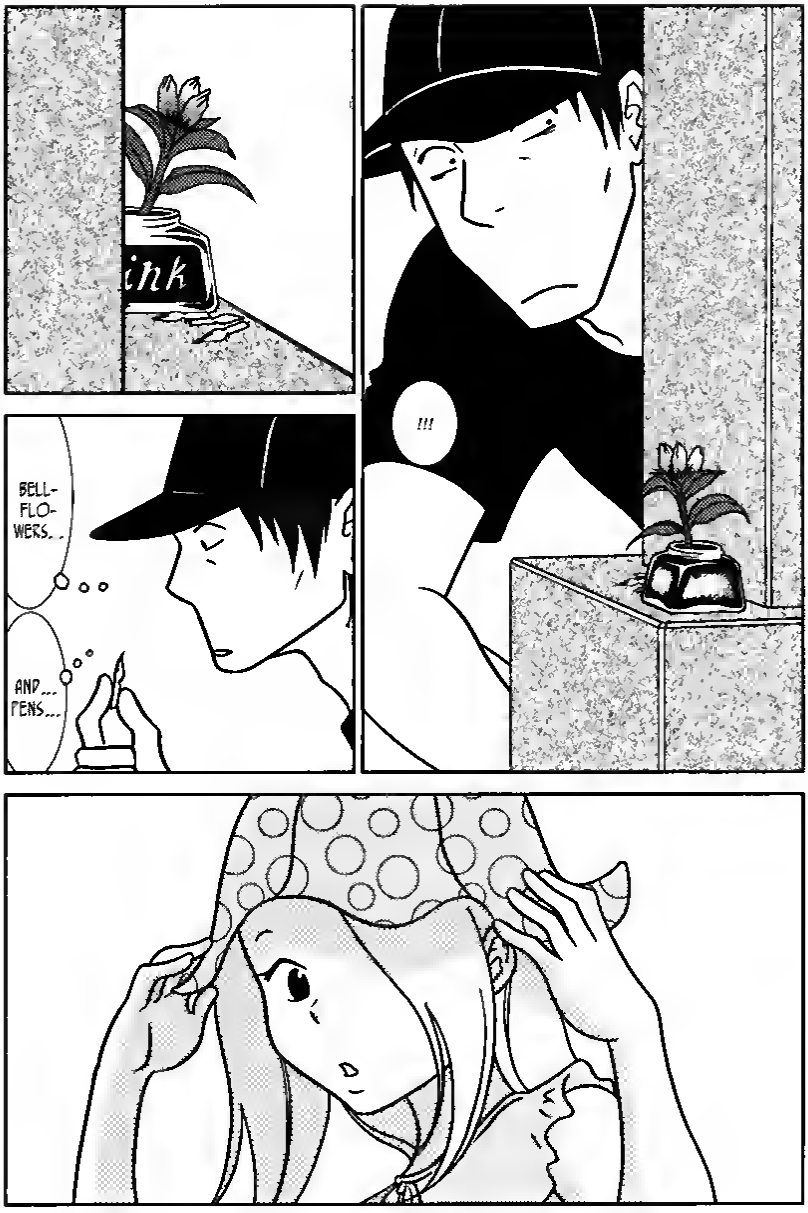


AND I'D BE FEELING AS IF I WERE GRABBING AT SOME ELUSIVE CLOUD, EVEN AS I KEPT UP THE PRETENCE OF BEING ALL GROWN UP.

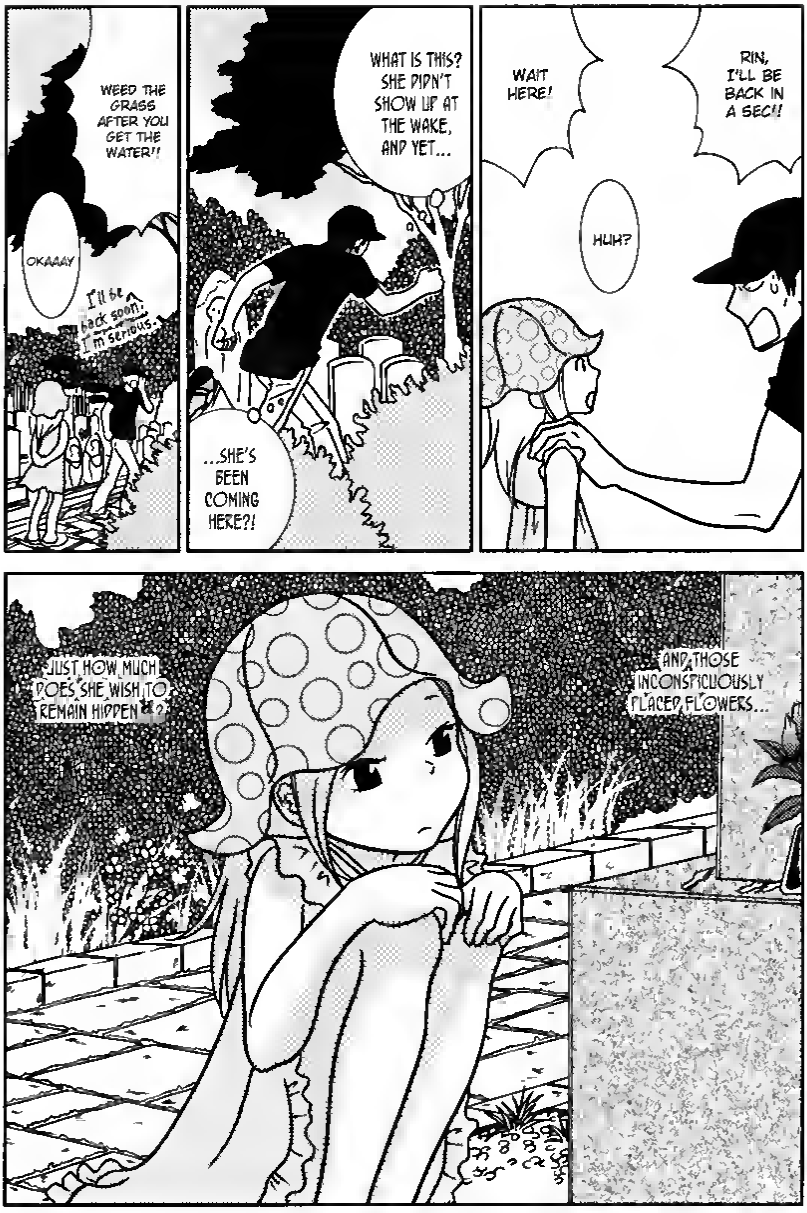



GRANNY'S ALSO BURIED HERE. THAT'S WHY.
WITH GRAMPS?
I'VE BEEN HERE LOADS OF TIMES BEFORE.
YEP
WELL, I GUESS GRAMPS' GRANNY IS ALSO BURIED HERE, TOO...
NO... MINE.
GRANDPA'S GRANDMA?
I'M THE CHILD OF THEIR CHILD.
MY MOTHER'S THE CHILD OF GRAMPS AND GRANNY, AND THEN...
UHM... IN OTHER WORDS...


AH!
SO AUNTIE'S GRANDPA'S DAUGHTER!!
OH. HEY! LOOK.
RIN!
THERE'S GRAMPS' GRAVE!
BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU I KNOW THIS PLACE!
BAD MOVE, DAIKICHI!!
OUR CONVER-SATION'S HEADING IN THAT DREADED DIRECTION!!
HMM? BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THAT'D MAKE AUNTIE AND I SIBLINGS, YOU KNOW.
AH.
I'LL GO GET SOME WATER AND COME BACK...
THANKS...


ink
!!!
BELL-
FLO-
WERS...
AND...
PENS...

*a type of incense


WEED THE GRASS AFTER YOU GET THE WATER!!
OKAAAY
I'll be back soon. I'm serious.
WHAT IS THIS? SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP AT THE WAKE, AND YET...
...SHE'S BEEN COMING HERE?!
WAIT HERE!
RIN, I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC!!
HUH?
JUST HOW MUCH DOES SHE WISH TO REMAIN HIDDEN?
AND THOSE INCONSPICUOUSLY PLACED FLOWERS...

J-SIS Presents

Usagi Drop ch. 17

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usagi drop

The heartwarming story of Rin and Daikichi!
On a visit to his grandfather's grave,
Daikichi missed running into Masako.
He left Rin behind and took off after Masako, but...?!
episode.18
うさぎドロップ

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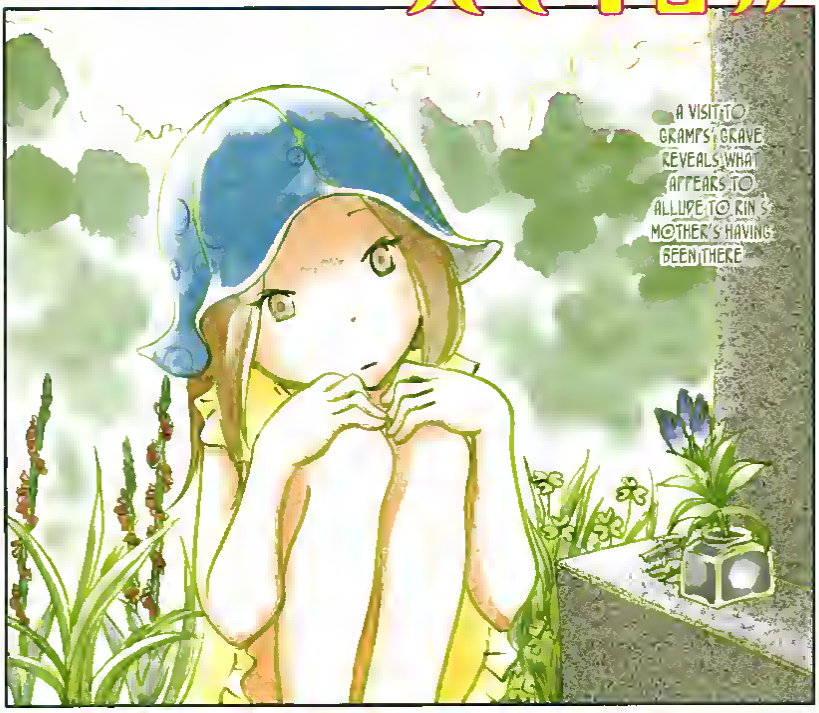
episode.18

大人気☆巻頭カラー

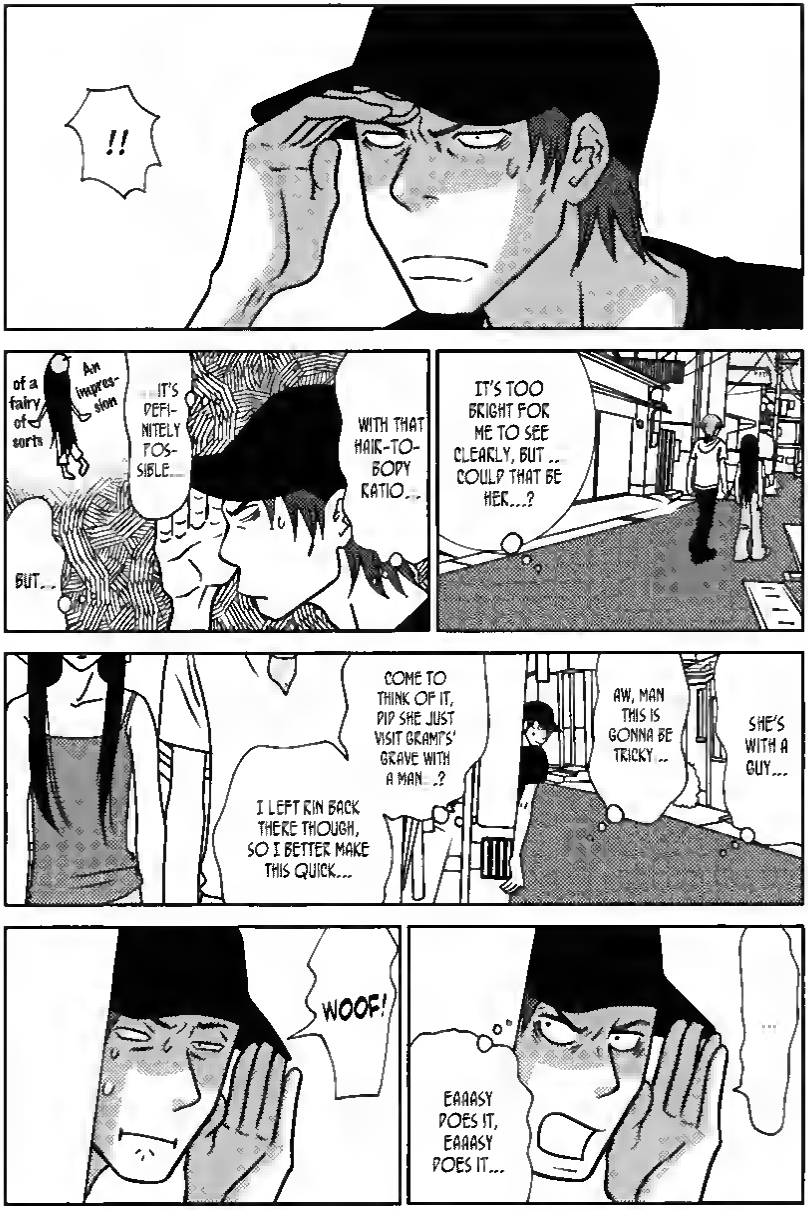
うさぎドロップ



宇仁田ゆみ

A VISIT TO GRAMPS' GRAVE REVEALS WHAT APPEARS TO ALLUDE TO RIN'S MOTHER'S HAVING BEEN THERE...
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT I WANT.
NEVERTHELESS, I TAKE OFF RIGHT AWAY.

WHICH WAY IS IT...?
...GEEZ. WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...?
...THAT MEANS HER HOME SHOULD BE THIS WAY, TOO, RIGHT...?
THE FAMILY RESTAURANT WHERE WE MET BEFORE IS THIS WAY, SO...


!!
An impression of a fairy of sort's
...IT'S DEFINITELY POSSIBLE...
WITH THAT HAIR-TO-BODY RATIO...
BUT...
IT'S TOO BRIGHT FOR ME TO SEE CLEARLY, BUT ... COULD THAT BE HER...?
SHE'S WITH A GUY...
AW, MAN THIS IS GONNA BE TRICKY...
COME TO THINK OF IT, DID SHE JUST VISIT GRAMPS' GRAVE WITH A MAN...?
I LEFT RIN BACK THERE THOUGH, SO I BETTER MAKE THIS QUICK...
WOOF!
...
EAAASY DOES IT, EAAASY DOES IT...

!!
I did "call out" to her but ... she's really looking this way!!
?!
Who's there?!
?
?
?
SO, THAT WEIRD-LOOKING VASE WAS THIS PERSON'S DOING AFTER ALL...?
...DIGNIFIED WAY OF DRAWING HER ATTENTION.
I SHOULD'VE OPTED FOR A SLIGHTLY MORE, UM...
UM, THIS ISN'T PREMEDITATED OR ANYTHING— IT REALLY ISN'T... BUT I FIGURED I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT...
I thought you were some crook...
W-WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU...?
...I CAME TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO MY LATE GRANDFATHER.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE...?

SHE'S AT MY GRAND-FATHER'S GRAVE AS WE SPEAK...
...RIN'S HERE WITH ME, TOO.
WELL, SHE WAS CARELESS, AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY FREAKING COINCIDENTAL BACK THERE AT THE CEMETERY, AFTER ALL...
PERHAPS JUST LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS LACKED A SENSE OF REALISM FOR HER?
HER REACTION IS VISIBLY DIFFERENT FROM THE TIME I SHOWED HER A PHOTOGRAPH OF RIN.
...
...WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
IT WAS ALL JUST FINE BEFORE I CALLED OUT TO HER, BUT...
I CAN'T POSSIBLY LET HER MEET RIN, FOR ONE...
...!
UHM. W-WELL
I... I...

...UNLESS RIN WISHES FOR IT...
...I DOUBT I'LL BE LETTING HER SEE YOU IN THE FUTURE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR CIR-CUMSTANCES EITHER, SO...
UM, HERE'S THE THING I'M REALLY FOND OF RIN, SO.
FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK VERY WELL OF YOU
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
SO, WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT THAT YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
I-I KNOW THAT

...AT THE VERY LEAST, HOW ABOUT SNEAKING A LOOK AT RIN?
HUH ...?
...
I BELIEVE THAT'LL BE ADEQUATE TIME...
ENOUGH FOR YOU TO AT LEAST TAKE A PEEK AT HER FACE WHILE WE'RE AT IT
I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK TO RIN...
...TIDY UP THE GRAVE LIKE NOTHING'S OUT OF THE ORDINARY. OFFER OUR INCENSE AND GO HOME.

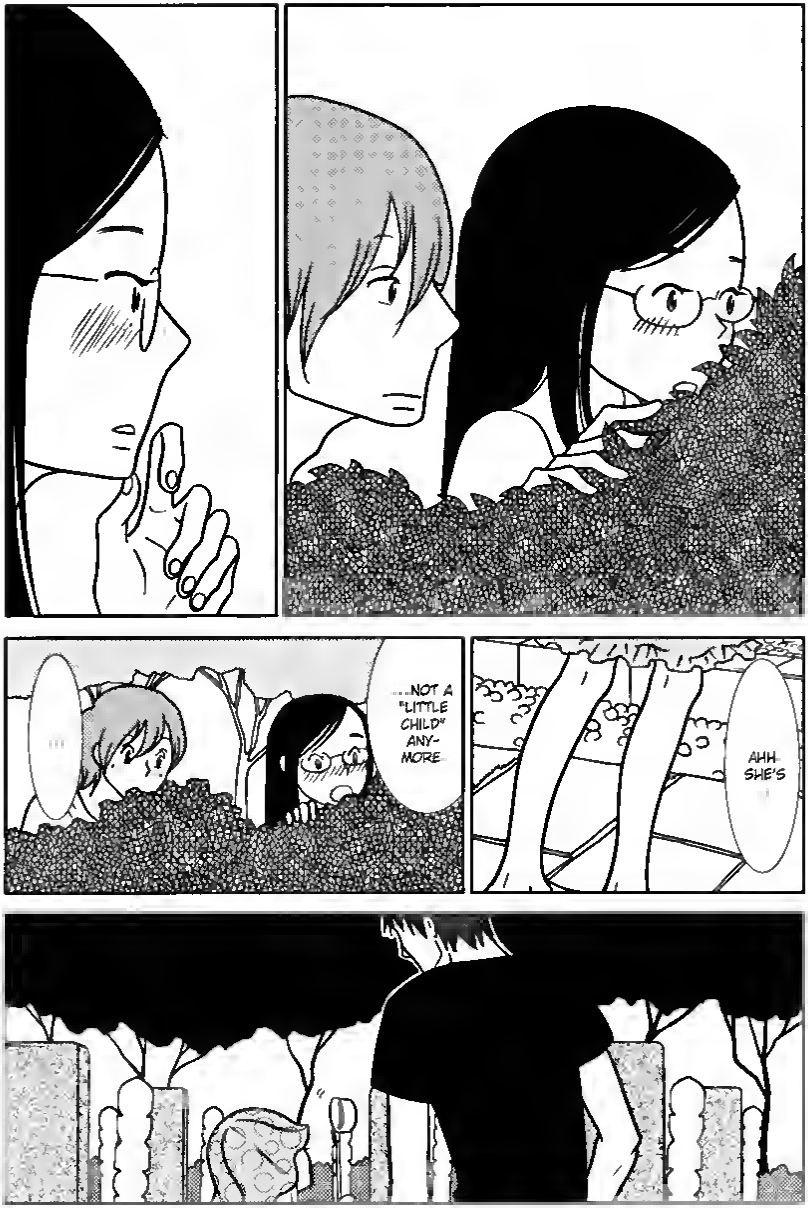
...WELL, RIN'S WAITING, SO I REALLY SHOULD GET GOING.

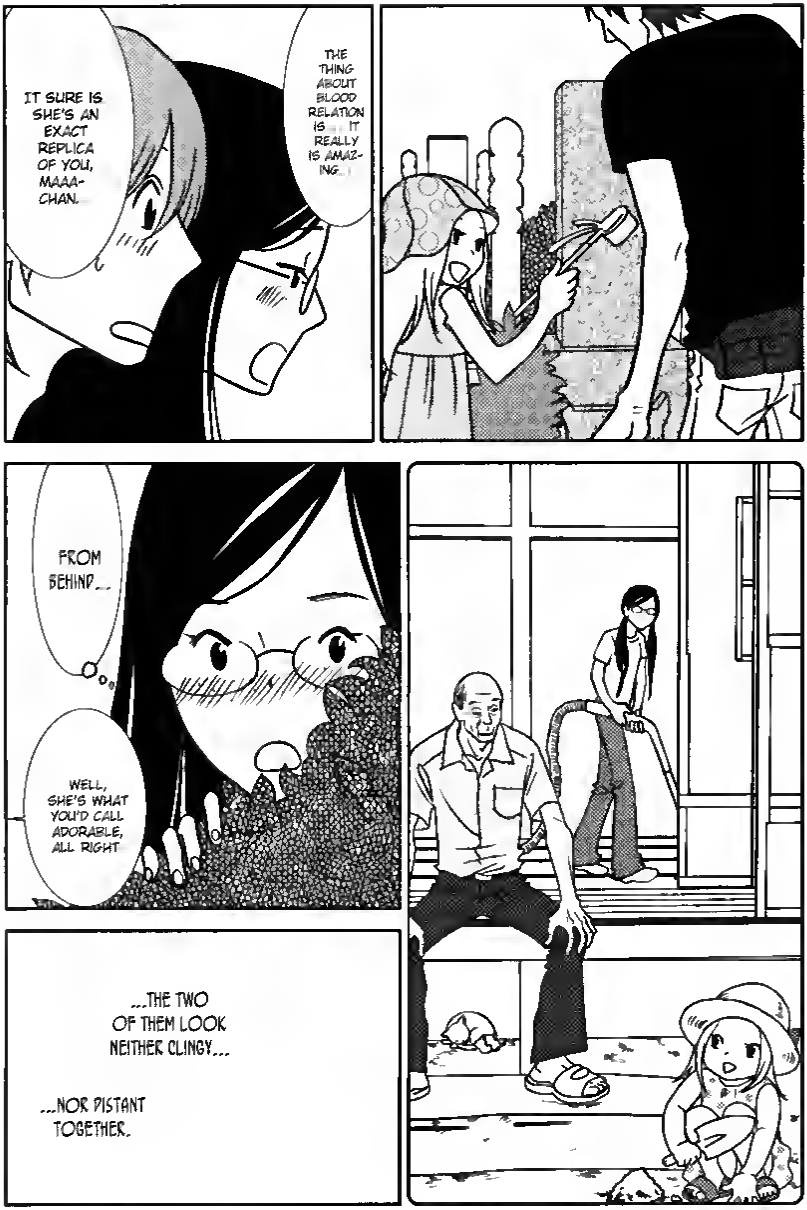
I'M ACTING OF MY OWN ACCORD, SO...
ALL RIGHT, THEN. IT'S YOUR CALL

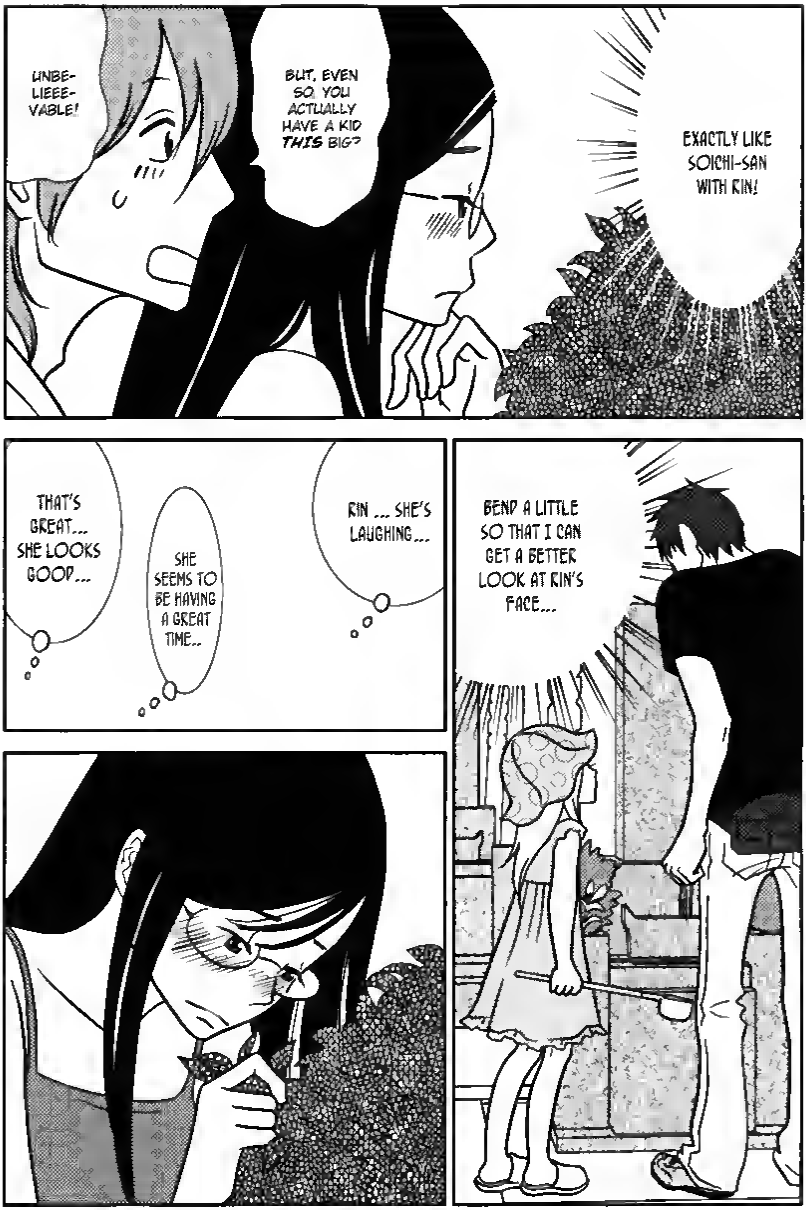
HEY,
RIN!
I'M SORRY... DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?

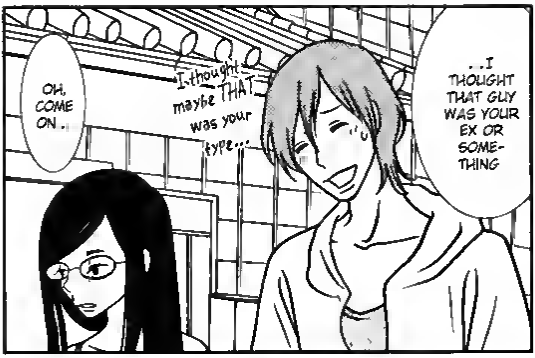
sharp pain
AH!
...F-FEELING THAT LONE—
AHAHA
W-WERE YOU..
DID YOU WAIT LONG?
OH, DID ...
HUH?
AH... UH... UM... ARE YOU OK ...?
UM.. I WENT TO... UM SAY HELLO TO THE MONKS ... SORT OF...

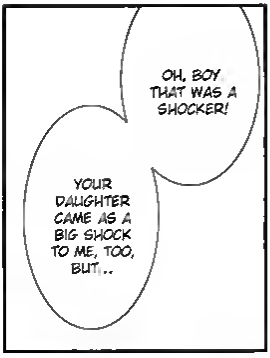
Ahaha.
WEIRDO!
WHY ARE YOU SO PANICKY?
WHO...
WHO'S A WEIRDO?!
OKAAAY
COME ON, LET'S PUT THE FLOWERS IN


...
...NOT A "LITTLE CHILD" ANY-MORE
AHH SHE'S

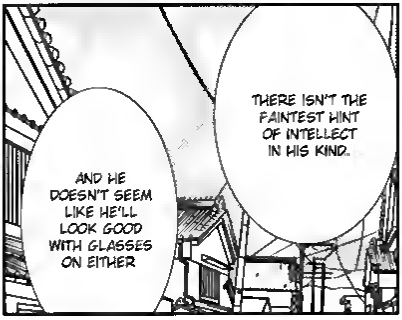

IT SURE IS SHE'S AN EXACT REPLICA OF YOU, MAAA-CHAN.
THE THING ABOUT BLOOD RELATION IS... IT REALLY IS AMAZ-ING!
FROM BEHIND...
WELL, SHE'S WHAT YOU'D CALL ADORABLE, ALL RIGHT
...THE TWO OF THEM LOOK NEITHER CLINGY...
...NOR DISTANT TOGETHER.


UNBE-
LIEEE-
VABLE!
BUT, EVEN SO, YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A KID *THIS* BIG?
EXACTLY LIKE SOICHI-SAN WITH RIN!
THAT'S GREAT... SHE LOOKS GOOD...
SHE SEEMS TO BE HAVING A GREAT TIME...
RIN ... SHE'S LAUGHING...
BEND A LITTLE SO THAT I CAN GET A BETTER LOOK AT RIN'S FACE...


OH, COME ON..
I thought maybe THAT was your type...
..I THOUGHT THAT GUY WAS YOUR EX OR SOME-THING

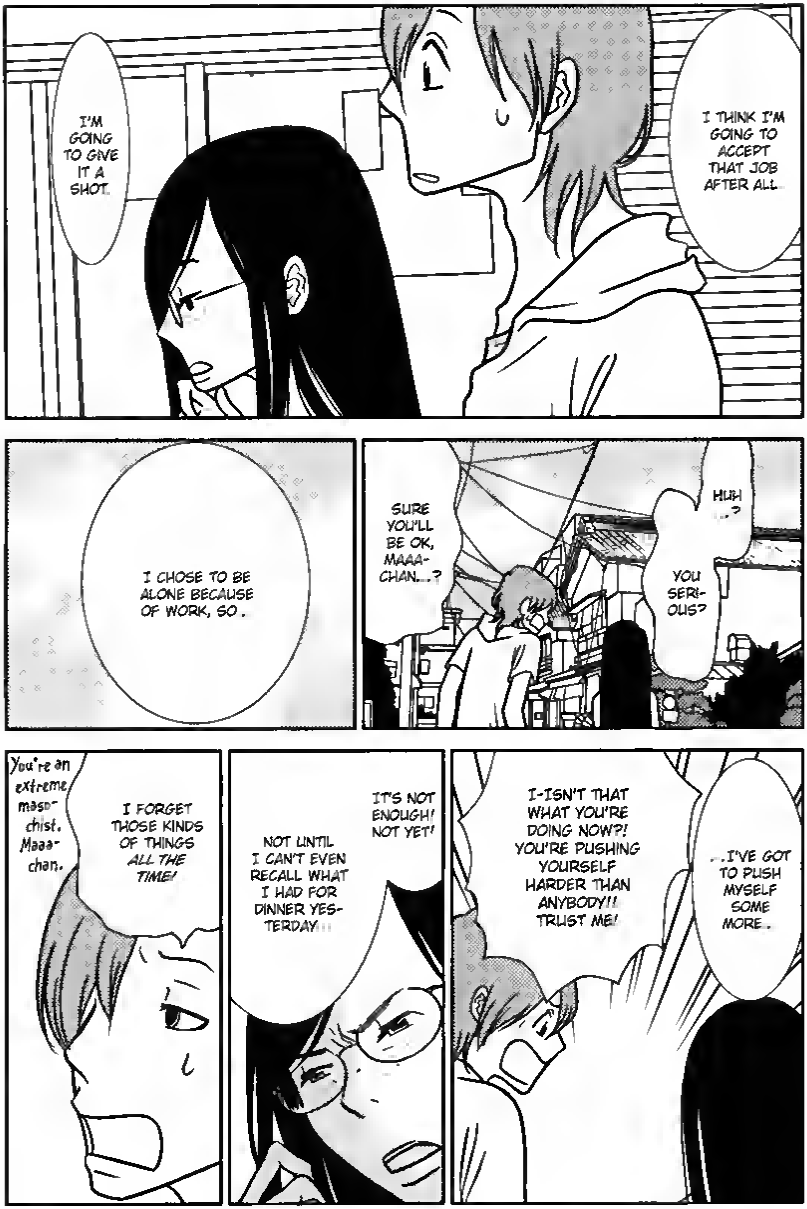

OH, BOY, THAT WAS A SHOCKER!
YOUR DAUGHTER CAME AS A BIG SHOCK TO ME, TOO, BUT...

Intellect...?
Glasses...?

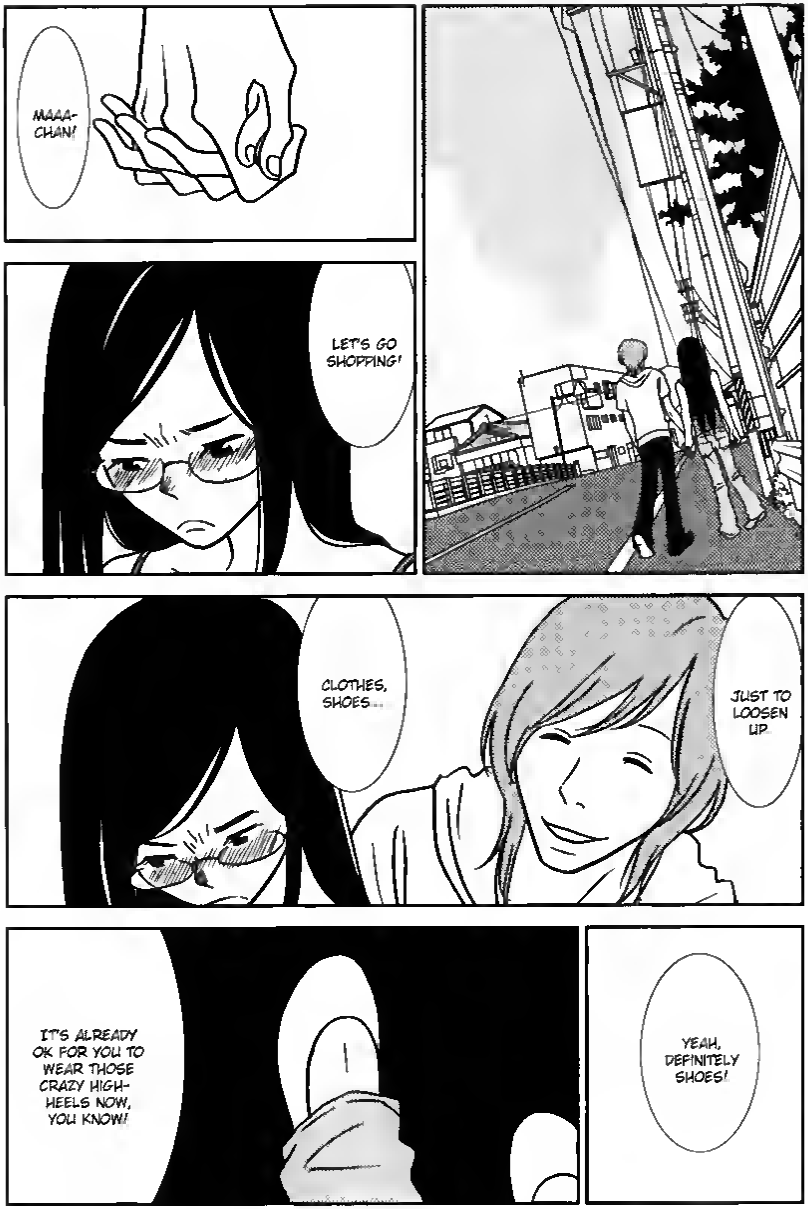

AND HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'LL LOOK GOOD WITH GLASSES ON EITHER
THERE ISN'T THE FAINTEST HINT OF INTELLECT IN HIS KIND.

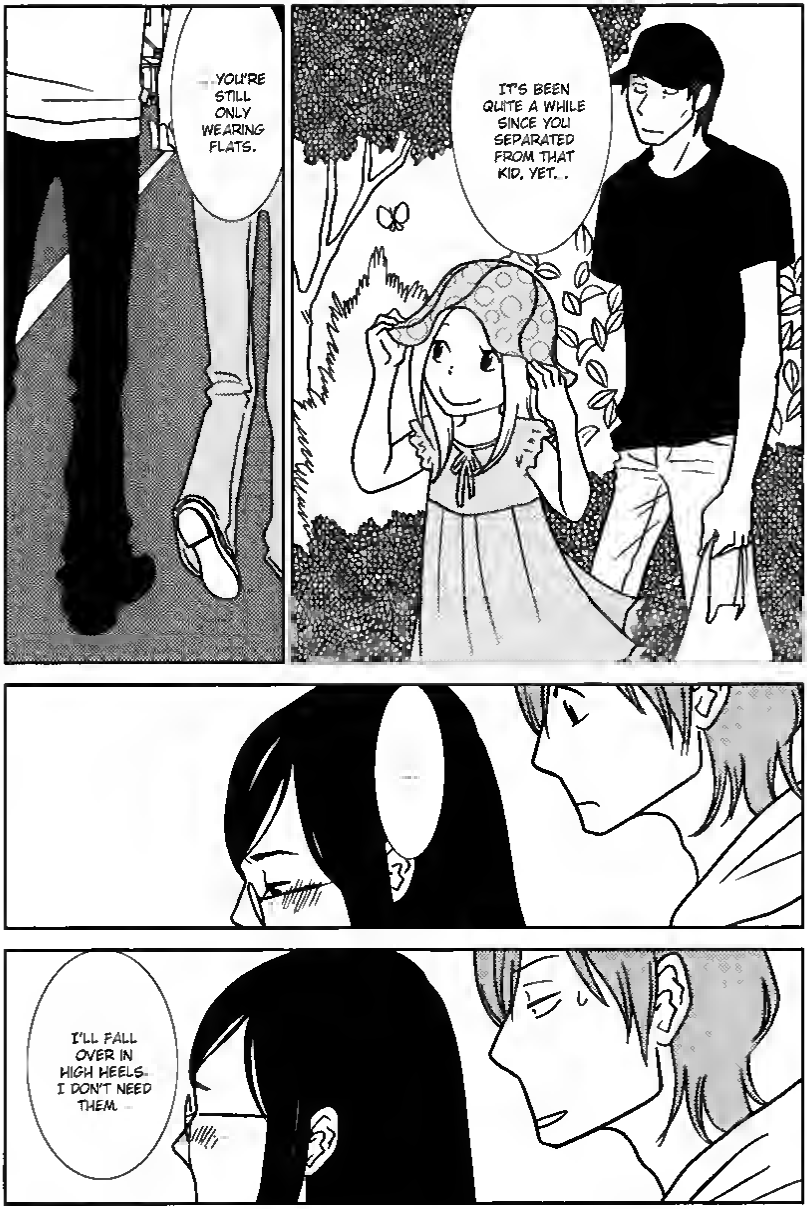
BUT, GIVE HIM ANOTHER HALF A CENTURY OR SO ... THEN, WHO KNOWS..

HUH?!
Half a century...?

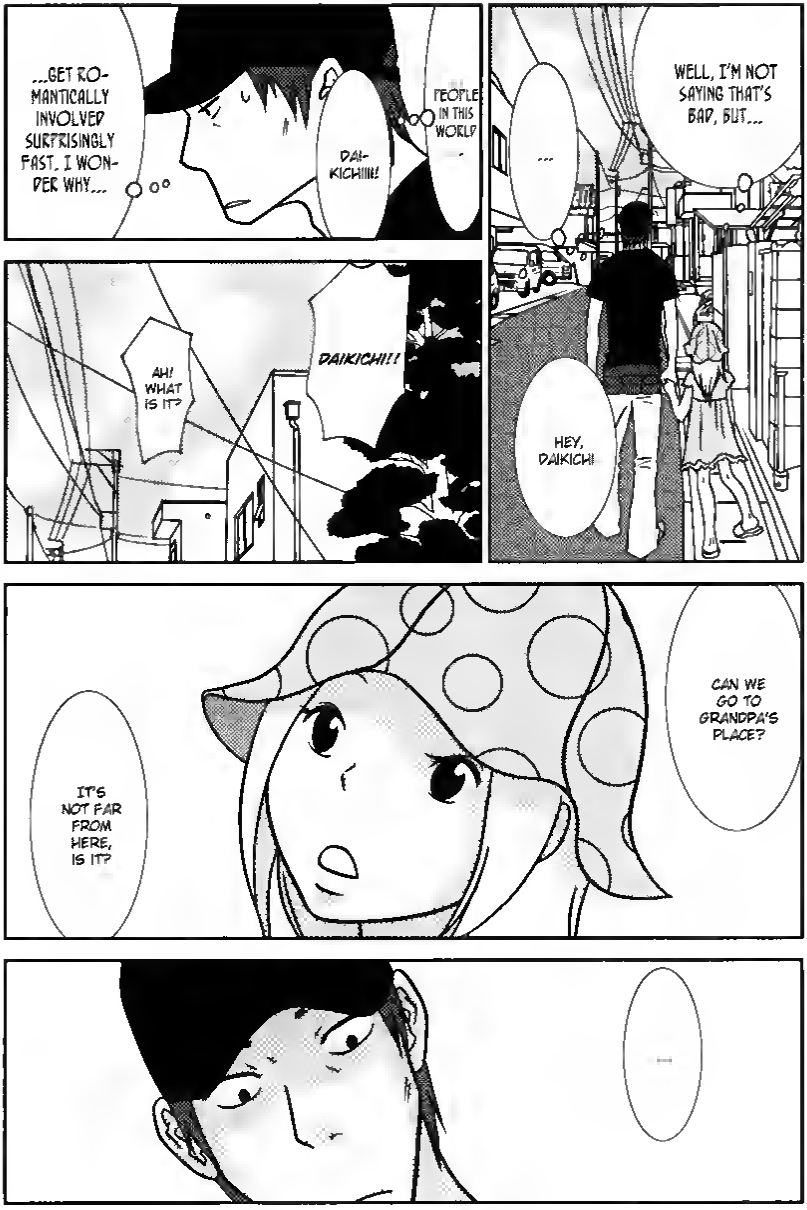

I'M GOING TO GIVE IT A SHOT.
I THINK I'M GOING TO ACCEPT THAT JOB AFTER ALL.
I CHOSE TO BE ALONE BECAUSE OF WORK, SO.
SURE YOU'LL BE OK, MAAA-CHAN...?
HUH ...?
YOU SERI-OUS?
You're an extreme masochist, Maaa-chan.
I FORGET THOSE KINDS OF THINGS ALL THE TIME!
NOT UNTIL I CAN'T EVEN RECALL WHAT I HAD FOR DINNER YES-TERDAY!!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH! NOT YET!
I-ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW?! YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF HARDER THAN ANYBODY!! TRUST ME!
..I'VE GOT TO PUSH MYSELF SOME MORE.

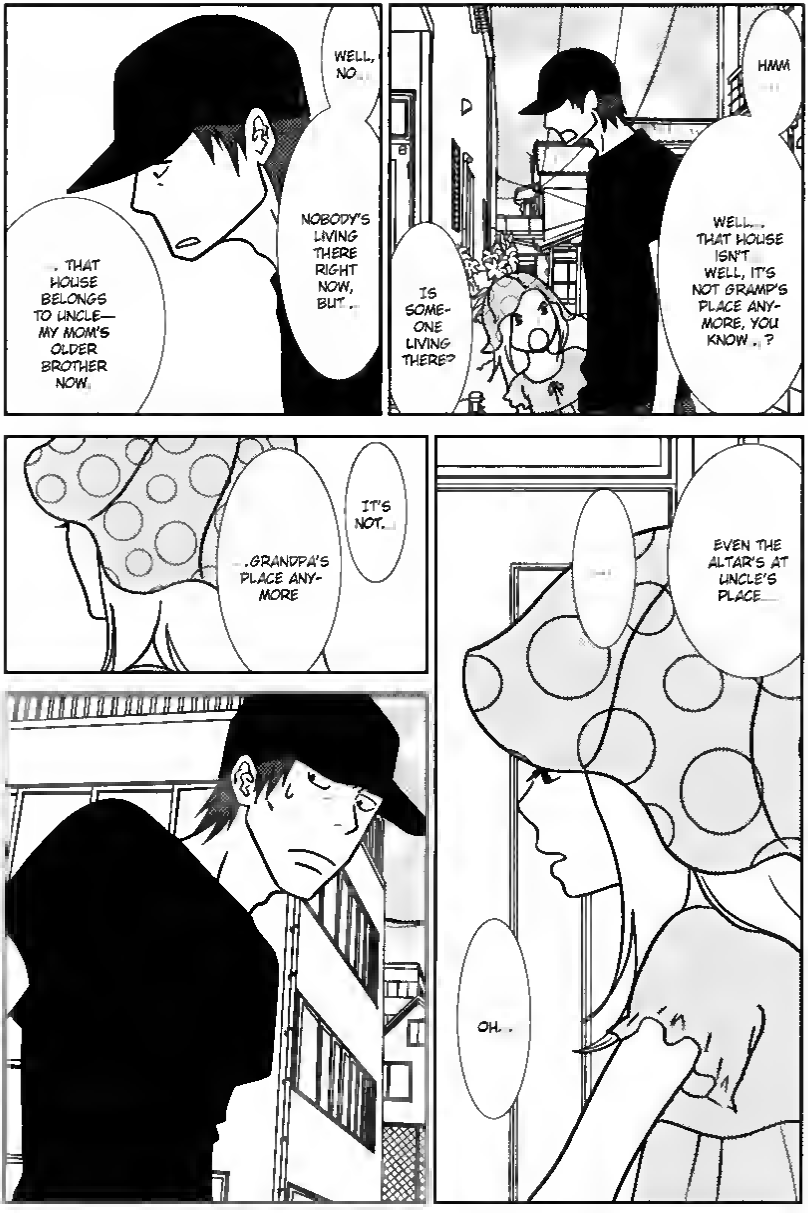
I...
IF I DON'T DO THAT...
IF I DON'T FORGET ALL KINDS OF THINGS...
YOUR HANDS ARE TURNING COLD AGAIN
LOOK AT YOU
WE'RE TALKING AUGUST NOW, YOU KNOW?

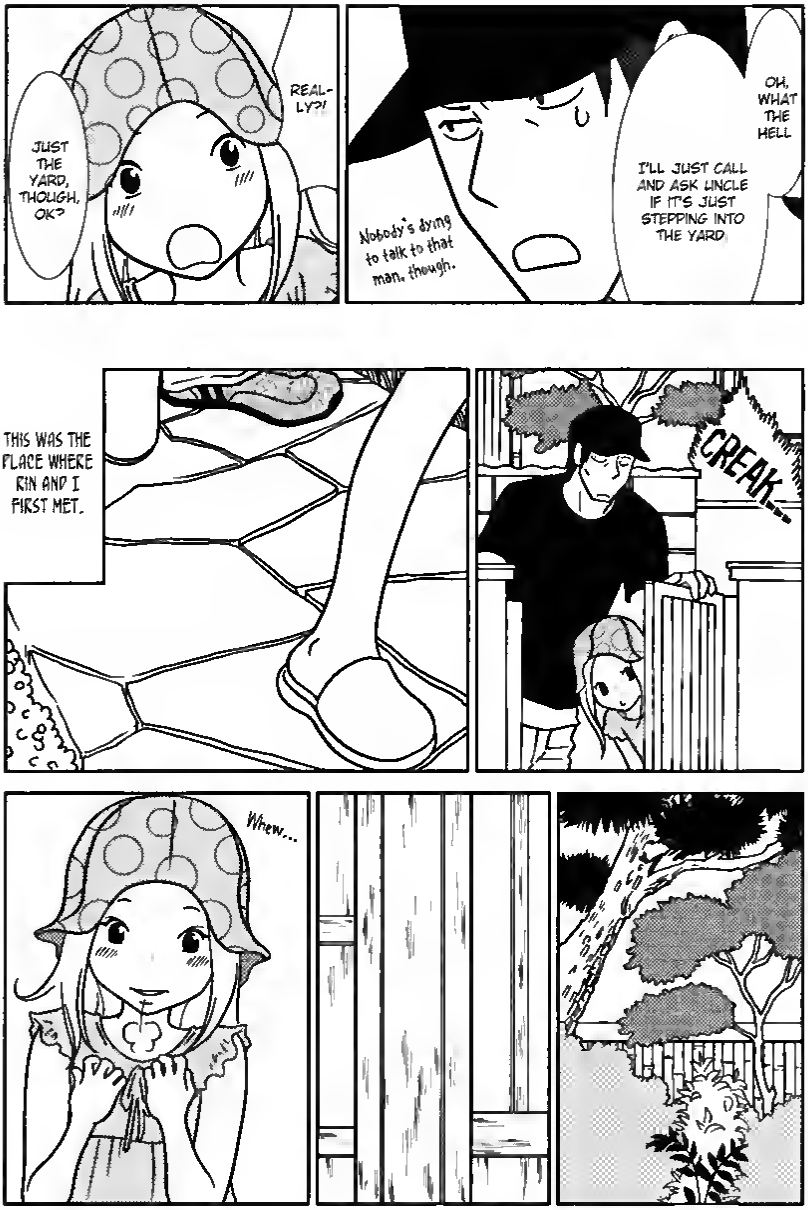

MAAA-CHAN!
LET'S GO SHOPPING!
CLOTHES, SHOES...
JUST TO LOOSEN UP.
IT'S ALREADY OK FOR YOU TO WEAR THOSE CRAZY HIGH-HEELS NOW, YOU KNOW!
YEAH, DEFINITELY SHOES!

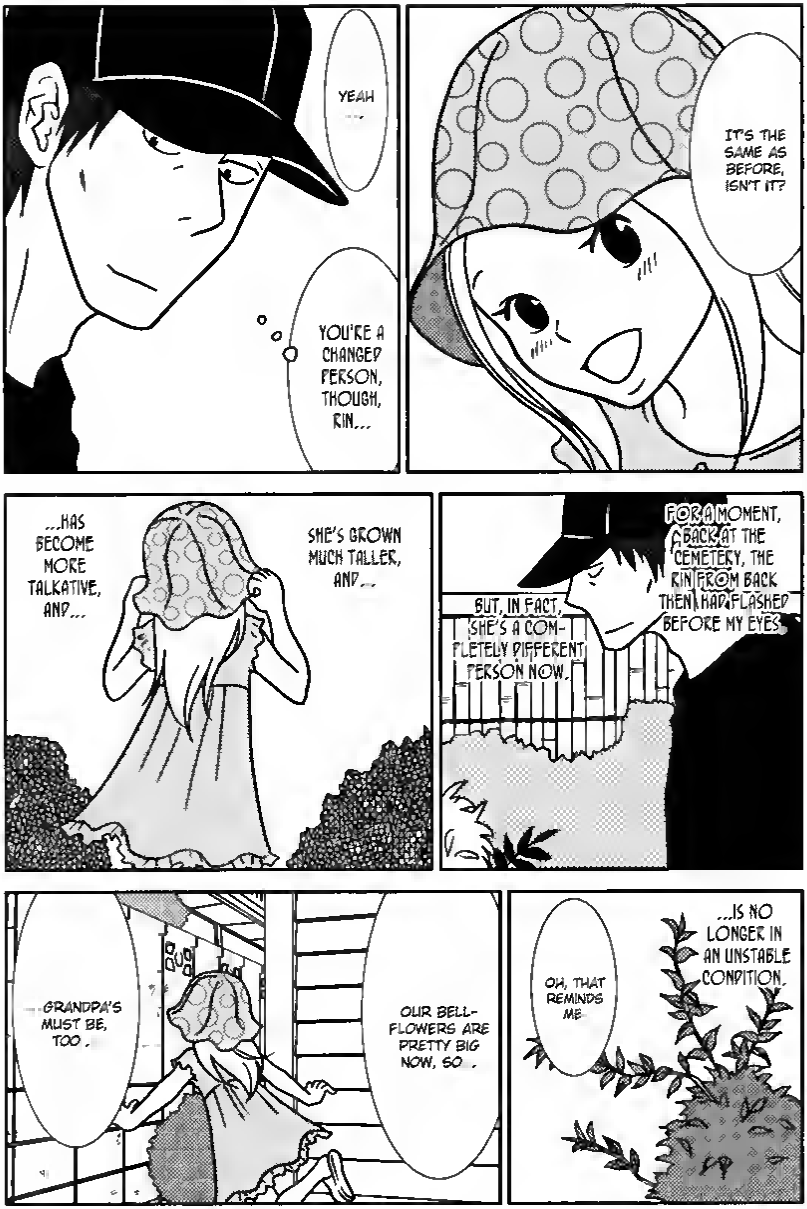

...YOU'RE STILL ONLY WEARING FLATS.
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE YOU SEPARATED FROM THAT KID, YET. .
I'LL FALL OVER IN HIGH HEELS. I DON'T NEED THEM.

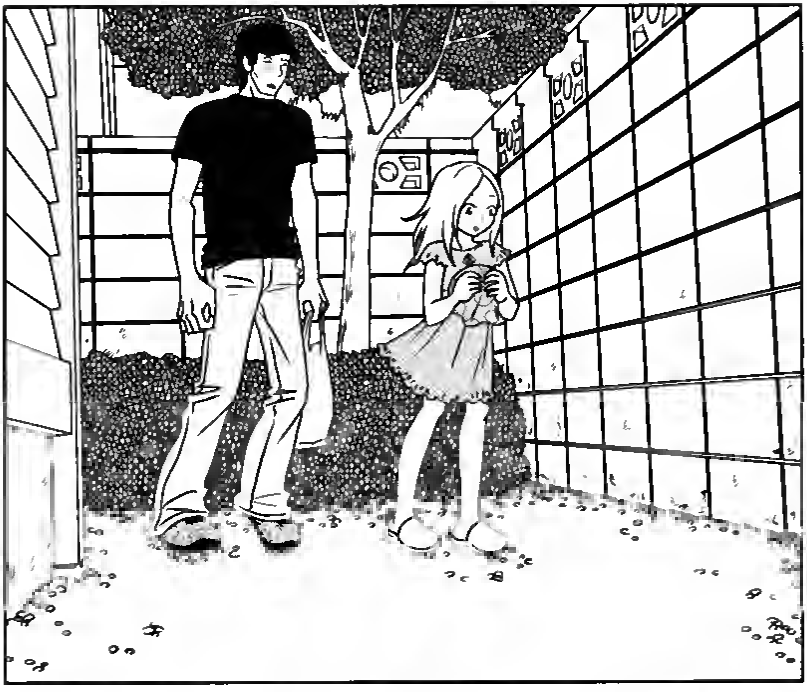
...ONLINE SHOPPING IS GOOD ENOUGH
BE-SIDES...
...I'M CLUELESS WHEN IT COMES TO CLOTHING, FOR ANOTHER; SO, I'D BE NONE THE WISER EVEN IF THEY SOLD ME UNSOLD GOODS
PLUS, SHOP-PING IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME
SHOP-KEEPERS ARE ANNOYING, FOR ONE, AND...
SUPER NEGA-TIVE...
THAT MAN...
LOGICALLY SPEAKING, I'D GUESS HE'S THE BOY-FRIEND...
NO, I MEAN... YOU SHOULD GET OUT THERE A LITTLE MORE IT'LL DO YOU GOOD, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY
THAT WAY, YOU'LL HAVE FEWER PROB-LEMS GETTING IDEAS FOR WORK, TOO
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS.

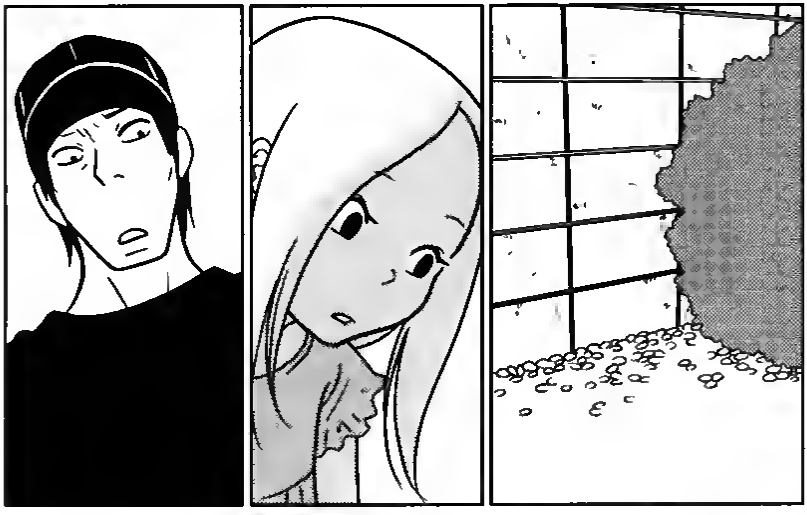

...GET ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED SURPRISINGLY FAST. I WONDER WHY...
PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD
DAIKICHI!!!
WELL, I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S BAD, BUT...
...
HEY, DAIKICHI
DAIKICHI!!
AH! WHAT IS IT?
CAN WE GO TO GRANDPA'S PLACE?
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE, IS IT?
...

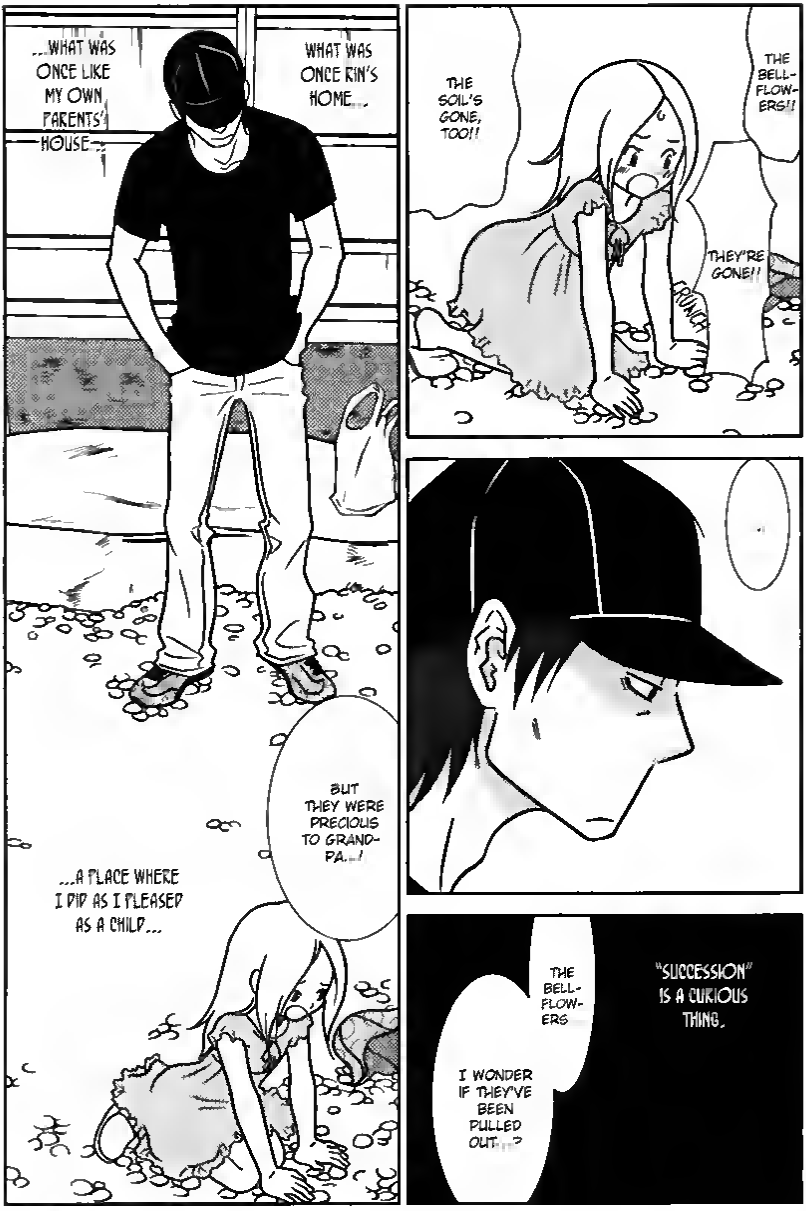

WELL, NO...
NOBODY'S LIVING THERE RIGHT NOW, BUT...
...THAT HOUSE BELONGS TO UNCLE— MY MOM'S OLDER BROTHER NOW.
HMM...
WELL... THAT HOUSE ISN'T... WELL, IT'S NOT GRAMP'S PLACE ANY-MORE, YOU KNOW...?
IS SOME-ONE LIVING THERE?
IT'S NOT.
...GRANDPA'S PLACE ANY-MORE
EVEN THE ALTAR'S AT UNCLE'S PLACE...
...
OH...


REAL-LY?!
JUST THE YARD, THOUGH, OK?
OH, WHAT THE HELL
I'LL JUST CALL AND ASK UNCLE IF IT'S JUST STEPPING INTO THE YARD.
Nobody's dying to talk to that man, though.
THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE RIN AND I FIRST MET.
CREAK...
Whew...

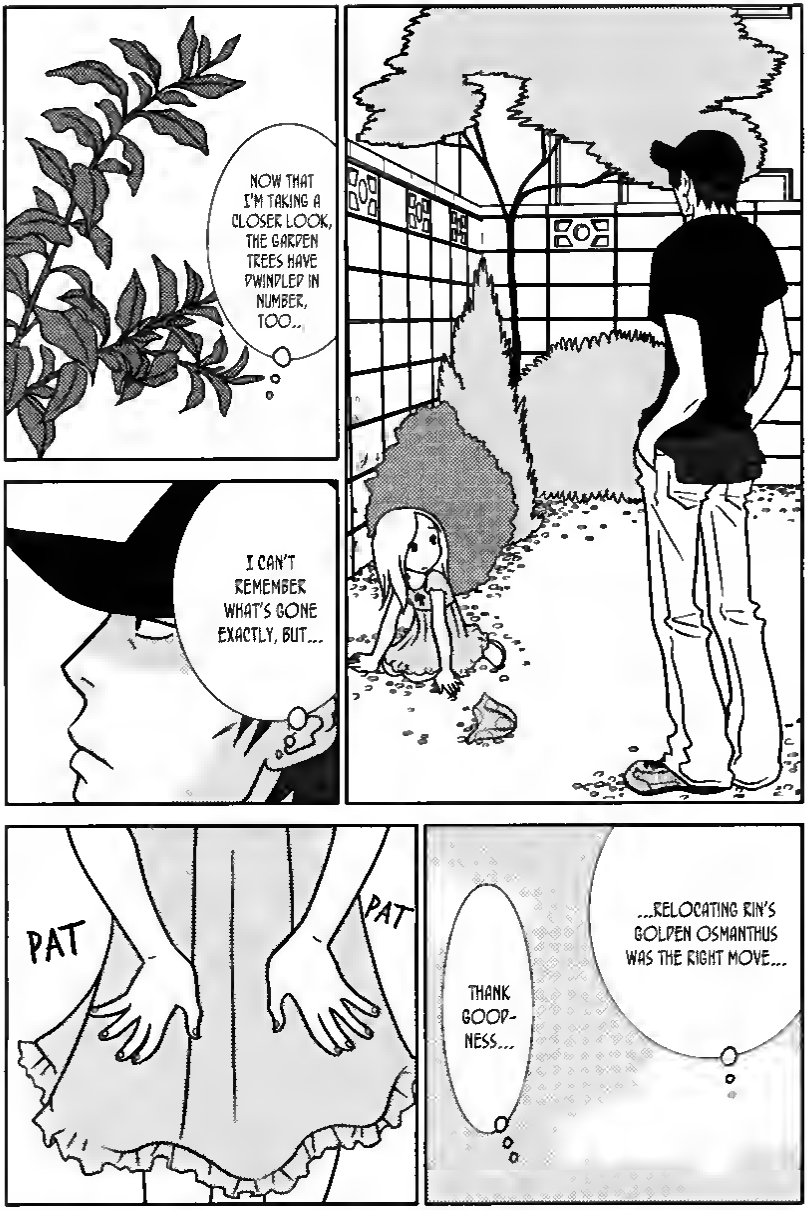

YEAH...
YOU'RE A CHANGED PERSON, THOUGH, RIN...
IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE, ISN'T IT?
...HAS BECOME MORE TALKATIVE, AND...
SHE'S GROWN MUCH TALLER, AND...
FOR A MOMENT, I FLASHED BACK AT THE CEMETERY. THE RIN FROM BACK THEN HAD FLASHED BEFORE MY EYES.
BUT, IN FACT, SHE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON NOW.
...GRANDPA'S MUST BE, TOO.
OUR BELLFLOWERS ARE PRETTY BIG NOW, SO.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME.
...IS NO LONGER IN AN UNSTABLE CONDITION.

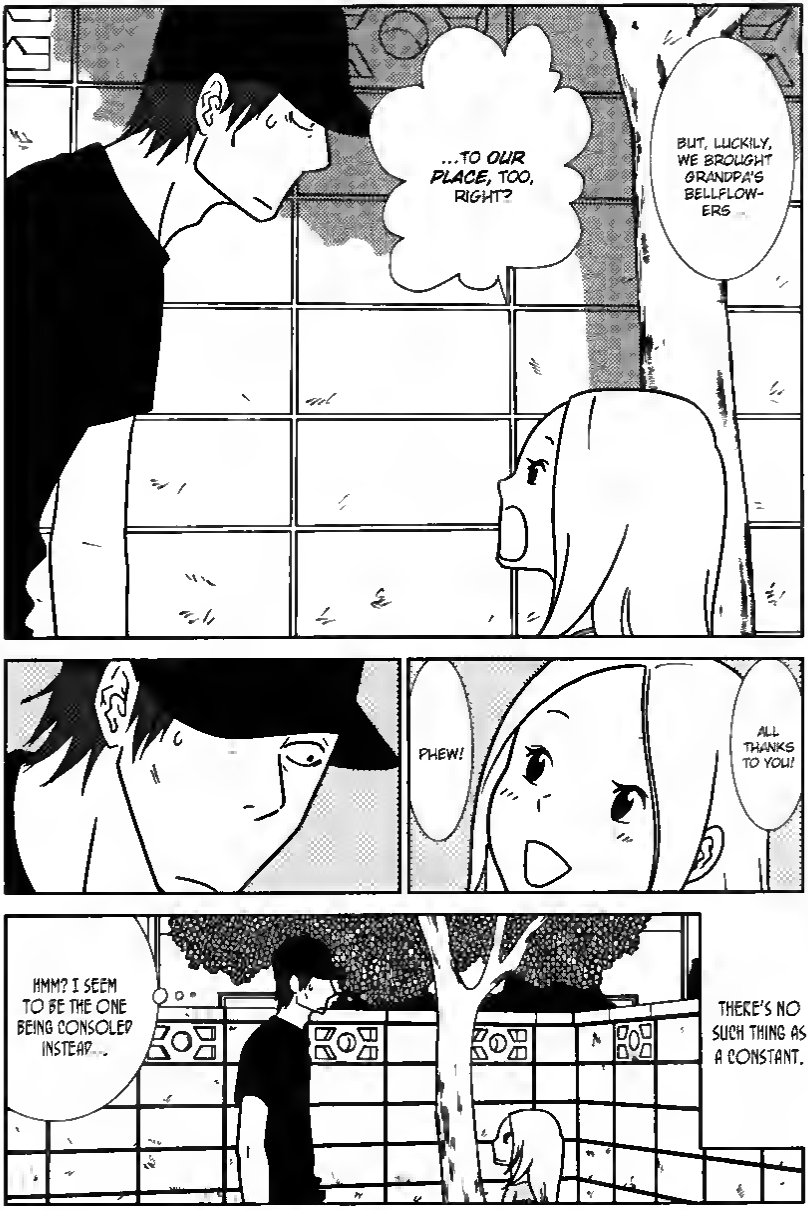




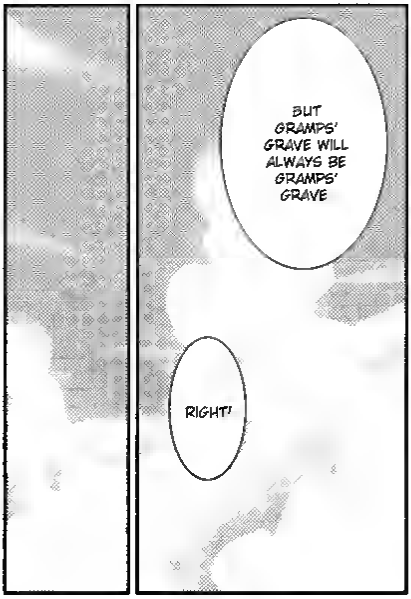

...WHAT WAS ONCE LIKE MY OWN PARENTS' HOUSE...
WHAT WAS ONCE RIN'S HOME...
...A PLACE WHERE I DID AS I PLEASED AS A CHILD...
BUT THEY WERE PRECIOUS TO GRAND-PA...!
THE SOIL'S GONE, TOO!!
THE BELL-FLOWERS!!
THEY'RE GONE!!
CRUNCH
"SUCCESSION" IS A CURIOUS THING.
THE BELL-FLOWERS
I WONDER IF THEY'VE BEEN PULLED OUT...?

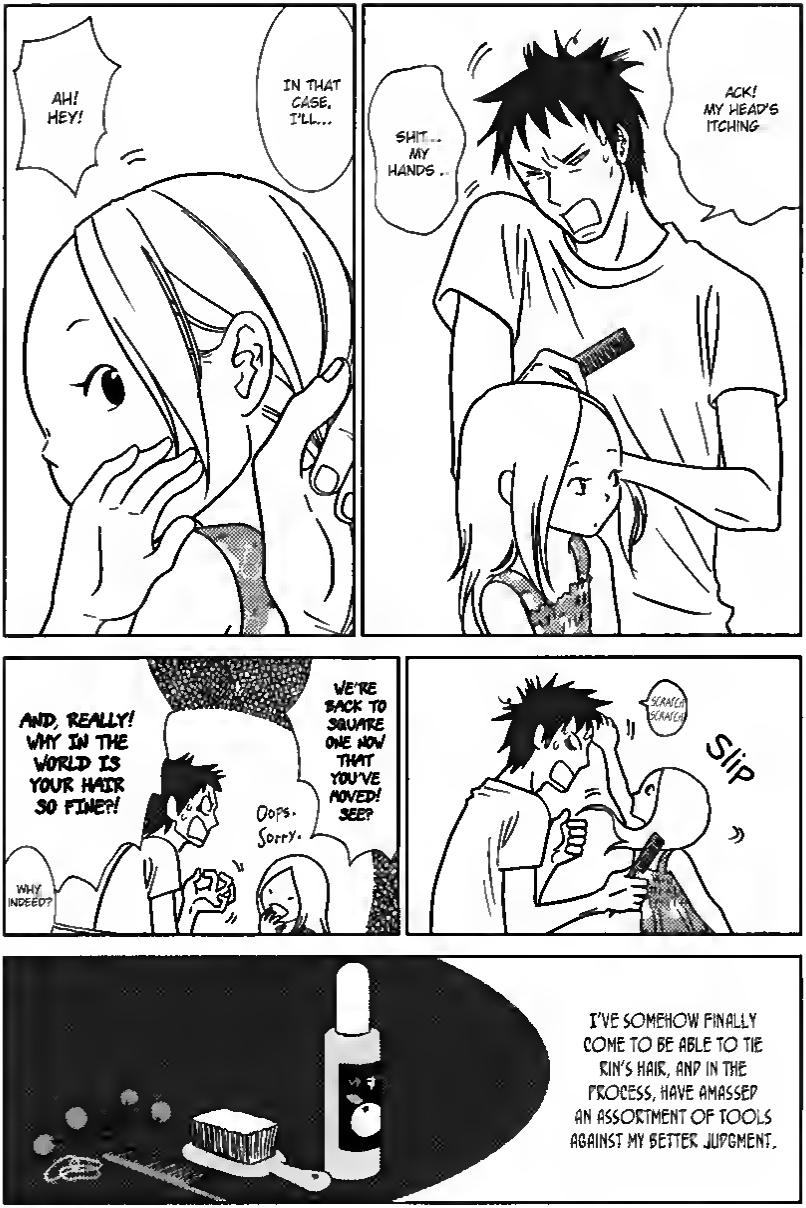
IT'S NOT AN OPEN PLAYGROUND ANYMORE.
...HAS NOW BECOME SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ALL OF A SUDDEN.
IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL I'M SURE...
UNCLE WOULD KNOW GRANDPA'S FAVORITE FLOWER, AT LEAST YOU KNOW.
...UNCLE MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT NEW SHOOTS WOULD SPROUT ONCE SPRING COMES...
BUT THEY DRY UP IN THE WINTER, SO...
A RELATIVE'S HOUSE IS, NEVERTHELESS, SOMEBODY ELSE'S HOUSE.
CRUNCH
WELL... WEEDS GROW QUICKLY WITHOUT A LAYER LIKE THIS, AND THAT'D BE TERRIBLE...
AND THESE STONES, TOO...


NOW THAT I'M TAKING A CLOSER LOOK, THE GARDEN TREES HAVE DWINDLED IN NUMBER, TOO...
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT'S GONE EXACTLY, BUT...
PAT
PAT
THANK GOOD-NESS...
...RELOCATING RIN'S GOLDEN OSMANTHUS WAS THE RIGHT MOVE...


...TO OUR PLACE, TOO, RIGHT?
BUT, LUCKILY, WE BROUGHT GRANDPA'S BELLFLOWERS...
PHEW!
ALL THANKS TO YOU!
HMM? I SEEM TO BE THE ONE BEING CONSOLED INSTEAD...
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A CONSTANT.

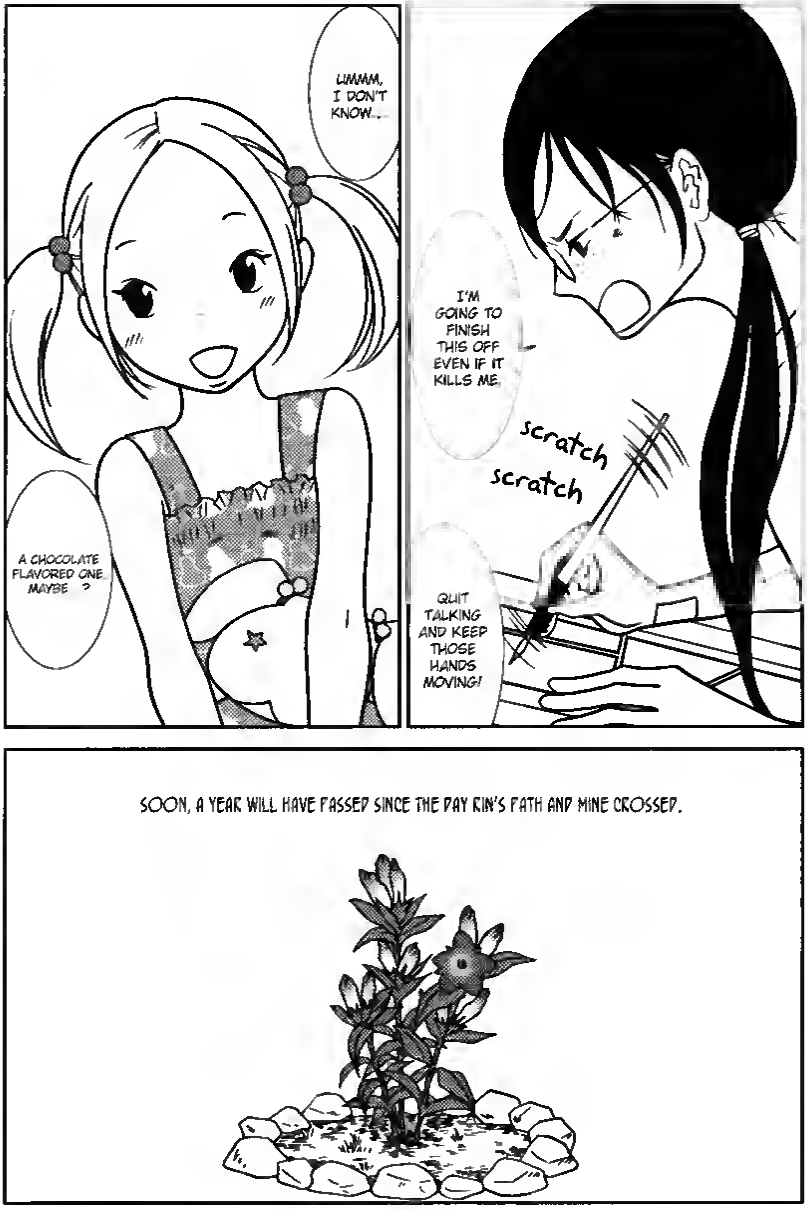
PERHAPS THE NOTION OF "CHANGE" ISN'T ALL THAT BAD.



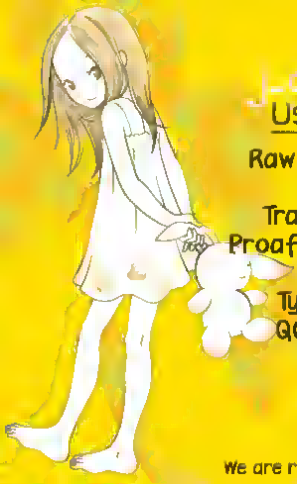

AH! HEY!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL...
SHIT... MY HANDS..
ACK! MY HEAD'S ITCHING
AND, REALLY! WHY IN THE WORLD IS YOUR HAIR SO FINE?!
WHY INDEED?
Oops. Sorry.
WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE NOW THAT YOU'VE MOVED! SEE?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
Slip
I'VE SOMEHOW FINALLY COME TO BE ABLE TO TIE RIN'S HAIR, AND IN THE PROCESS, HAVE AMASSED AN ASSORTMENT OF TOOLS AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT.

...FOLLOWED BY GRAMPS' DEATH ANNIVERSARY.
NEXT MONTH WILL BE RIN'S BIRTHDAY...
RIN, WHAT KIND OF CAKE WOULD YOU LIKE FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?
SAIONJI-SENSEI, HERE FOR YOUR FINAL APPROVAL, PLEASE
ARE YOU OK?
IT REALLY LOOKS SOMEWHAT IMPOSSIBLE THIS TI—
IF YOU VERBALIZE THAT SORT OF THING, MY HANDS REALLY WILL STOP! SO CUT IT OUT!!
SCRATCH SCRATCH

*On draft : I[dɑft] ɪdɪn[t]


UMMM, I DON'T KNOW...
A CHOCOLATE FLAVORED ONE MAYBE ?
I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS OFF EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.
scratch
scratch
QUIT TALKING AND KEEP THOSE HANDS MOVING!
SOON, A YEAR WILL HAVE PASSED SINCE THE DAY RIN'S PATH AND MINE CROSSED.

to be continued...



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